

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

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ECCLIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

SUNDAY RAILWAY TRAINS.—THE SCOTCH CONTROVERSY.

THE Edinburgh Presbytery of the United Secession Church have, by a large majority, declared their approval of the act of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway directors, by which the running of all passenger trains on that line on the Sunday is forbidden. We are bound to do admiring homage to the temper in which the subject was discussed. We recognize, on either side of the question at issue, the names of men eminent, as well for their piety, as their ability. We can fully sympathize with all the speakers, in their sense of the importance attaching to a settlement of this controversy on right grounds. But we dissent seriously, earnestly, after repeated and anxious deliberation, and with a hearty recognition of our own responsibility, from the conclusion at which the Presbytery have arrived—and, albeit we are wont to regard religious disputes, as such, as being beyond our special province, and, consequently, to abstain from intermeddling in them, the present question crosses at so many points the domain over which we keep watch—civil and religious liberty—that we feel it incumbent upon us to enter our protest, supported by such considerations as appear to us pertinent, and, having discharged our conscience, to quit, if possible, this region of debate altogether.

With a view to present our remarks in a compact form, it may be well to mark out distinctly the direction in which our argument will travel. It is one of the items of our creed, that Christianity, rightly understood, coincides, throughout its entire extent, with civil and religious freedom—and that the rights of the latter are to be discovered, with least danger of mistake, by consulting the genius and spirit of the former. Our objection, therefore, to the decision of the Glasgow and Edinburgh Railway directors, and, of course, to the resolutions of approval tendered to them by various ecclesiastical bodies, grows out of our belief that such decision is at war with what we take to be the mind of Christ, as developed in "the perfect law of liberty." We decline going into the specialities and circumstantialities of the present case. We decline gauging the legal power of the directors, or determining their precise relation to the public. We decline distinguishing between different grades of criminality exhibited in the profanation of the Lord's day. We decline discussing the origin, or the perpetual obligation, of that institution. We grant to those from whom we differ all that they have advanced on these topics—grant it, not absolutely, but for argument's sake. We think the solution of the question, now so keenly contested, lies deeper down amongst the very elements of the Christian faith than any of the foregoing points—and we make no apology for indicating, with as much brevity as may be, the steps by which we have reached our conclusion.

The Lord's-day, as we term it—Sabbath, we believe, is the more common designation of it in Scotland—is to be spoken of, in this controversy, as a religious institution. In this light it must be exclusively regarded by those who, on conscientious grounds, would have it hallowed. Their own observance of it is prompted by their regard to the will of God. That which they do to prevent the desecration of the day, they do because they believe the sanctification of it to have been his express command. Man's relation to the Lord's-day, therefore, is wholly a spiritual relation. The obligation imposed is spiritual—the obedience to be rendered is spiritual. Neither will-worship nor hypocrisy can avail here. The judgment must be satisfied of the authority—the heart must be penetrated by its spirit—or the act is in no sense a religious one. A compulsory rest makes not a Sabbath. No submission to a religious institute can be admitted which is not proffered by

the will—none can be pleasing to the Most High which does not represent a right motive.

If this be so, and we imagine none will controvert it, we are prepared to contend, that the only legitimate means of seeking a wider and more universal observance of this religious institute, are *example, instruction, and persuasion*—for these are the only agencies by which the human will can be effectually reached. Authority, no matter in what guise it exercises itself—constraint, no matter what social or legal rights it may avail itself of, can do no more to promote the better observance of the Sabbath than they can to destroy the seeds of natural depravity. There is but one method yet disclosed of getting at the understanding—but one of engaging the heart. We may shape men's conduct by compulsory arrangements, but we cannot by such means alter their character—we may affect what they *do*, we cannot affect what they *are*. Christianity proceeds from first to last upon this assumption—makes no exception to the rule—demands *rational* service, and recognizes no other. Christianity, therefore, aims to enlighten by truth, to quicken by example—never to coerce into reluctant acquiescence by mere authority. Not by the force of external circumstances does she compel—but by the vital energy of truth she persuades.

The decision of the directors appears to us to distrust the efficacy of example, instruction, and persuasion, in promoting a better observance of the Lord's-day, and to introduce an agency at variance with the whole genius of the gospel. Occupying a position of extensive trust, they refuse, according to their own representation of the case, to give increased facilities for the desecration of the Sabbath. What do they mean? Of course they will not contend that mere mechanical motion profanes the sacred day—for all the agencies of nature are in motion; nor that noise, considered alone, necessarily implies desecration—for on that day, as on others, the winds howl, the ocean lifts up his hoarse and monotonous voice, and the heavens discharge their thunder. In order to desecration, there must be the presence and action of man; there must be more—there must be forbidden and rebellious motive. The running of an engine and train, in order to come under any rational idea of a profanation of the Lord's-day—its impetuous rush—its fearful noise—must be connected with some obliquity of human will. To be carried by machinery on the Sunday, cannot, irrespectively of the object sought, be a violation of the day of rest; else what becomes of the hundreds who are conveyed to church in cars, noddies, and minibusses? against whose practice not a whisper of condemnation has been breathed. Well, then, the *guilty motive* constitutes the *profanation*—apart from the motive, the act is nothing.

See, now, whither this leads us. A multitude of persons present themselves at a railway station on Sunday—their object is pleasure—their means to it, locomotion. The directors meet them, and refuse to allow them the aid to indulgence, which the railway might afford. What do they thereby compass? A diminution of facilities for violating the sanctity of the Sabbath? Not at all. The crowd disperses—each individual carrying away with him the same motive as he brought. The stream of depravity is turned into other channels—that is all. In church, by listless, wearisome, and hypocritical exercises—a-foot, in the nearest fields that can be reached—at home, with books, newspapers, or accounts—in spirit-stores and cellars, concealed from the prying eye of men—wherever they go, whatever they do, these men act upon precisely the same motive as that which impelled them to seek the railroad—self-gratification. And are we to be gravely told that, whilst every disposition, propensity, passion, principle, remains unaltered, the mere closing of the communication between the two cities, is a 'sanctification' of the Sabbath? Is the mere external form in which rebellion appears, a matter of so much moment, that the entire withdrawal of any special form of it is to be gloried in as a material alteration of the whole case? How, in the one instance, is there a better observance of the Lord's-day than in the other? The men must be assailed in their *motives*, by instruction and appeal—not in their *conduct*, by arbitrary regulations. 'Tis in the first, not in the last, that we shall find the real desecration of the Sabbath.

There is infinite mischief done by attempting to impose upon the *world*, institutions which can have significance only for the *Church*. "What have we to do to judge them that are without?" Christian laws are for Christian disciples—all men ought to obey them, because all men ought to recognize their

intrinsic rightness and loveliness. But, until they do recognize these things, we do but a vain thing in seeking to fix upon them, by arbitrary arrangements, a yoke which they esteem to be galling. The consequences of this mistake have been, and are, most fatal. We have provoked unusual resistance—we have fostered a spirit of nominalism and ritualism—we have engendered general hypocrisy—we have hidden, by glossing over its surface, the real condition of society from the observation and sympathies of the Church—we have trespassed upon all sorts of rights—we have misrepresented the true genius and force of Christianity—we have driven wickedness into corners to ferment and fester in unnatural heaps—we have thrown away our most striking arguments, our most touching appeals—and we have hugged the flattering thought, that we were obeying Christ, and subserving his kingdom. Oh! terrible delusion! There will be no end to the encroachment of an infidel spirit upon this generation, until Christian men cease to pursue *national* sanctification by such methods as the directors have chosen, and give themselves, instead, to the promotion of individual conviction, obedience, and love, by wielding revealed truth as their *only* weapon, and relying upon the various powers which God has connected with it, as their *only* stay and support.

NORFOLK AND NORWICH RELIGIOUS LIBERTY SOCIETY.

(Abridged from the *Norfolk News*.)

A meeting of the Religious Liberty Society was held on Tuesday last, in the Assembly-rooms. The room was, as on the last occasion, well filled; and many had to leave the door for want of accommodation. Amongst those present we observed the Mayor, Edward Willett, Esq., Osborn Springfield, Esq., John Bateman, Esq., Mr. Samuel Blunderfield, the Revs. W. Brock, A. Reed, J. Crompton, and T. A. Wheeler, and a large number of the influential Dissenters. The lecturers were repeatedly cheered throughout the delivery of their lectures by an audience at once respectable, intelligent, and possessed of the true *animus* of the occasion. Mr. James Colman occupied the chair.

The Rev. J. LORD then addressed the meeting on the following topic:—"The compulsory maintenance of religion inconsistent with the character of the primitive churches."

J. H. TILLET, Esq., then proceeded to address the meeting on "The origin of the present Church Establishment, and the nature of its revenues." Mr. Tillet ably maintained the following propositions:—1st. The existing church establishment was created by act of Parliament. 2nd. The system acquires no reputation from the times in which it was formed, nor from the persons who formed it. The sovereigns, statesmen, and prelates whose power was then in the ascendant, appear, with some honourable exceptions, to have been influenced in the manner in which the Reformation was brought about, and in the extent to which it was carried on, by political and worldly considerations; and those parties who were not actuated by such considerations were not satisfied with the progress which had been made in the way of reformation. 3rd. That the payment of tithes is not enjoined by Scripture upon Christians; that they originated in the midst of the early corruptions, were first granted in this country as expiations for great crimes, and were accompanied with conditions inconsistent with Protestantism. That if the clergy had not departed from the principle adopted in the apportionment of tithes, the poor would have been greatly relieved, and church-rates would have been unnecessary. Lastly. Assuming the severance of the alliance between Church and State to be desirable for the public good, the State has full power, with perfect justice, to carry into effect such a measure. He gave the following description of the revenues of the Church:—

The revenues of the Established Church, as nearly as I can ascertain, are upwards of £9,000,000 a year. They are derived from tithes, Church lands, annexed to bishoprics, deaneries, and other ecclesiastical dignities and offices, fees on burials, marriages, and baptisms, glebes, parsonage houses, oblations, and almost numberless minor sources of endowment. The number of Church livings is about 10,700. The patronage of nearly all these livings is in the hands of the aristocracy. The total number of dignitaries and clergymen of the Church of England is about 18,000. Of the incumbents, nearly one-half are non-resident; in upwards of 4,000 Church livings, the tithes and revenues attached to those livings are received by clergymen who do not reside in the parishes, but employ curates to do their work for them, in breach of the apostolical injunction contained in the words, "When we were with you, this we commanded you, that, if any would not work, neither should he eat." Nearly three-fourths of the Church revenues are derived from tithes.

His sketch of the origin and nature of tithes contains much valuable information:—

The circumstances under which tithes were established in England, I will give you from the standard work on this

subject—Burn's Ecclesiastical Law. Burn says, what was paid to the church for several of the first ages after Christ, was all brought to them by way of offerings, and these were made, either at the altar, or at the collections, or else occasionally. Afterwards, about the year 791, Offa, king of Mercia (the most potent of all the Saxon kings of his time in this island), made a law whereby he gave unto the church, the tithes of all his kingdom, which the historians tell us, *was done to expiate for the death of Ethelbert, king of the East Angles, whom, in the year preceding, he had caused basely to be murdered.* But that tithes were before paid in England, by way of offerings, according to the ancient usage and decrees of the church, appears from the *Canons of Egbert, Archbishop of York, about the year 750.*

But this law of Offa was that which first gave the church a civil right in them in this land. In the reign of Ethelwulf, sixty years afterwards, the payment of tithes was established for the whole realm of England. The origin of tithes is accompanied by two important circumstances, which I beg you to note:—1st. "They were granted for the expiation of enormous crimes, which the clergy of those days had persuaded men they had the power to forgive, and were in almost every case accompanied by words showing the object, such as 'for the salvation of my soul,' 'of my father's soul,' 'and for the ransom of the soul,' and the like." Another circumstance attending the origin of tithes, is that they were given—not for the sole benefit of the priest, (for in those days the priests being unmarried men, could not require such large endowments,) but they were given to be divided into four parts—one part to the bishop, one to the clergy, one to the maintenance of the church buildings, and the remaining fourth to the poor. The bishop being afterwards provided for sufficiently, the division of tithes was into three parts, for the church edifices, the poor, and the clergy. Some who may dread the consequences of the statements I have made, may venture to question them—if such be the case, my authorities are conclusive. I will give you but one. I could give a hundred. Lord Campbell, when Attorney-general, in his speech on the Irish church, said, "When the Christian religion was first planted in this island, its ministers were supported by the voluntary oblations of the faithful. By and by, all were expected to contribute a tenth of their substance, and afterwards this became a legal obligation. But, by law, there was long a fourfold division of the tithes—one part to the bishop, one to the incumbent of the parish, one to repair the fabric of the church, and a fourth to the poor. An alteration was afterwards made which could only have been by the Legislature, and bishoprics being amply endowed by landed possessions, the parochial clergy contrived to get the whole of the tithes for their own use; the repairs of the church being left to the parishioners, and the poor thrown upon charity." Tithes were evidently designed not only to aid in supporting the ministry of the whole people, but to keep all the parish churches in repair, and to maintain the poor of the nation. No ancient or divine right can be pleaded in favour of this property which does not draw after it these unwelcome consequences. There is one subject remaining, upon which I must offer a few observations. What title have the dignitaries and clergymen of the Church in the Church lands, tithes, and ecclesiastical revenues? I will not answer this important question in my own words, but in those of Lord Campbell:—"The vested rights of individuals are not to be disturbed by any resumption or new distribution, but, these being protected, the appropriation of the property remains with the State by which it was granted, always subject to the implied condition that the public good requires a change in its destination." Again he says—"I hold that the grant was by the State, that the State is to superintend the application of the property granted, and that it is in the power of the State, without sacrilege or injustice, or cause of complaint, to resume any part of this property and apply it to other purposes, where such a course might tend to the good of religion and the public welfare." This is the opinion of an eminent lawyer, who, when he uttered it, was Attorney-general of England, has since been Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and is now one of the Cabinet Ministers. Sir James Mackintosh has a very remarkable passage to the same effect in his "Vindictæ Gallicæ." He says—"The whole subject is so evident, that little diversity of opinion could have arisen if the question of Church property had not been confounded with that of the present incumbents." He contends for "the right of the State to arrange, at its pleasure, the revenues of any future priests," whilst he admits a doubt "whether it is competent to change the fortune of those to whom it has solemnly promised a certain income for life." In this work, this profound historian ventures to utter a prophecy; as an intimation of opinion from such a man it is worthy of great consideration. He says, in reference to the downfall of spiritual power in Christian Europe, "Did we not dread the ridicule of political prediction, it would not seem difficult to assign its period. Church power, unless some revolution, auspicious to priestcraft, should replunge Europe in ignorance, will certainly not survive the nineteenth century." Hallam, whose authority on this question will be conclusive, in reference to ecclesiastical property says: "In estates held, as we call it, in mortmain, there is no inter-community, no natural priority of interests between the present possessor and those who may succeed him, and as the former cannot have any pretext for complaint, if his own rights being preserved, the legislature should alter the course of transmission after his decease; so neither is any hardship sustained by others, unless their succession has been already designated or rendered probable."

Mr. Tillett concluded by alluding to the cheering prospect that was before them in their endeavours to bring about a separation between Church and State. He also briefly adverted to the necessity of working hand and heart in the cause in which they were engaged, and sat down amidst loud applause.

The Rev. W. Brock proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturers. The Rev. T. A. Wheeler seconded, including the name of the Chairman in this proposition.

Thanks having been returned by these gentlemen, the meeting terminated.

We congratulate the society, says the *News*, upon the increasing interest excited by these lectures. "Extreme opinions" are growing quite fashionable, in Norwich at least. The meeting on Tuesday was even more crowded than that of the preceding week. The addresses of Messrs. Lord and Tillett were applauded with an enthusiasm indicative of a very advanced state of public opinion in this district, upon the great question of the separation of the Church from the State.

THE SUNDAY-TRAIN QUESTION.

At a meeting of the Edinburgh United Secession Presbytery, on Monday week, this much-agitated question was the subject of long and animated discussion. Mr. COOPER, of Fala, proposed, and Mr. PARLANE, of Tranent, seconded, the following resolution:—

That the Presbytery, recognizing the universal and permanent obligation of the Sabbath, its value as a season of holy rest and spiritual improvement, and its fitness, when properly observed, to promote the best interests of man, agree to express their deep regret at the extent to which it is desecrated by railway travelling on that day, and their alarm at the prospect of a great increase of its profanation in our country from this cause; and resolve to present a memorial to the proprietors of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, at their meeting, to be held on the 5th day of March, requesting them to adopt such measures as shall prevent the desecration of the Sabbath by the running of ordinary trains on that day.

Dr. BROWN moved, and Dr. RITCHIE seconded, the previous question. After some discussion, the amendment was put to the vote, and rejected by twenty-seven to seven. The discussion was then proceeded with, and Dr. BROWN, in a long and able speech, argued against the adoption of the original motion.

Mr. DAVIDSON then proposed, and Dr. BROWN seconded, the adoption of the following amendment:—

That this Presbytery, while recognizing the universal and permanent obligation of the Sabbath, its value as a season of holy rest and spiritual improvement to the people of God, and its fitness, when properly observed, to promote the best interests of all men, refuse to express any opinion of the conduct of the directors of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, in stopping passenger trains on the Lord's day, because they believe questions to be involved which this Presbytery are incompetent to settle, or even to entertain. That this Presbytery, at the same time, express their desire that, in consistency with the rights of private conscience, and the principles of civil and religious liberty, a properly guarded legislative enactment were passed, for the suppression of all kinds of secular and unnecessary work and traffic on the first day of the week, so as to afford the opportunity of a day of rest to all classes of labourers and servants. And that the Presbytery appoint a committee of their number to consider if any, and what, additional measures, of a practical kind, might be adopted, to promote Sabbath sanctification among the members of the Secession Church.

Dr. HARPER argued against the amendment, which was rejected by nineteen to four. The following was the state of the vote:—For Mr. Cooper's motion—Dr. Harper, Messrs. Cooper, Johnston, Hogg, D. Duncan, Lowrie, Elliot, J. Robertson, jun., Reid, Parlane, A. Thomson, Sandy—ministers; Henderson, J. Young, Allison, Umpherstone, Boyd, Paddie, and J. Robertson—elders—nineteen. For Mr. Davidson's amendment—Dr. Brown, Messrs. Davidson, Brodie, and Dyer—ministers—four.

The motion of Mr. Cooper was accordingly declared carried by a majority of nineteen to four; and, in terms of it, a memorial was ordered to be transmitted to the proprietors of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway Company.

Dr. BROWN dissented from the finding of the Presbytery, for reasons to be given in.

The Presbytery adjourned, after a sederunt of five hours and a half.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

MR. KINGSLEY'S LECTURES.

We have just been favoured (writes an esteemed correspondent at Kettering) with a visit from Mr. Kingsley; and it has occurred to me, that a brief report of proceedings up to the present time is due alike to the lecturer, to the Society he has effectively represented, and to the public.

Mr. Kingsley commenced on Monday evening, at Burton Latimer, a village four miles from Kettering. The episcopal revenues in that parish are rather large. Till recently, Rev. Mr. Grimshawe, author of a "Life of Cowper," was the non-resident rector: but the spiritual oversight of the people has lately devolved on a Mr. Bevan, a son of the rich banker, whose will was mentioned a few weeks since in all the newspapers. The legacy to some one or more of the sons, it appears, is considerably reduced in consequence of money previously paid in purchase of *livings*. Mr. Grimshawe, on consideration of several thousands of pounds paid to him, handed over to the said Mr. Bevan his right to be regarded as the spiritual instructor of the people of Burton Latimer.

Mr. Kingsley lectured in the Baptist Meeting-house, to an audience unexpectedly numerous, and comprising a very considerable number of gentlemen able to render the society very effective pecuniary aid. We cannot but regard the audience gathered in the village, as a satisfactory index of the hold which the question of establishments is taking on the public mind.

On Tuesday Mr. Kingsley lectured in the Independent Meeting-house, Kettering, to a respectable auditory, numbering, I believe, between four and five hundred—possibly somewhat more than 500. It was grievous to mark the absence of some friends whose character and station give them great weight, but who seem to be terribly afraid of the advocacy of their own principles. Their number, however, is but small.

On Wednesday Mr. Kingsley lectured in the Independent Meeting-house at Brigstock, a village eight miles from Kettering, to an audience of about 150.

The lectures were listened to with eager interest, and have given a decided impulse to the Anti-state-church Movement, some rather curious proofs of which I could give, were it allowable to make them public. A Committee was formed at each of the three places.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the members of the Anti-state-church Association, resident in Leicester, was held at the Exchange on Thursday evening, Joseph Cripps, Esq., in the chair, for the purpose of appointing a committee to manage the local affairs of the Institution. Gentlemen connected with all the Dissenting congregations were chosen, and a determination was manifested to spare no exertions to increase the number of members, and the amount of aid afforded by Leicester, which is justly considered the birth place of the Society. We understand that Mr. J. H. Davis has undertaken the office of secretary *pro tem.*, and that any person desirous of joining the Association, may do so by applying at his office in Cank-street.—*Leicester Mercury.*

MANCHESTER.—The first of a course of lectures on behalf of this Association, was delivered at Lloyd-street Chapel, Manchester, on Tuesday evening, the 16th inst. The chair was taken soon after half-past seven o'clock by the Rev. W. M'Kerrow, who, in a concise and energetic speech, described the character and objects of the Association, avowed his own connexion with it, and his deep interest in its operations, and invited the true friends to true religious freedom to come forward in its aid. He then introduced the lecturer, the Rev. D. Rhys Stephen, who said it was his intention and business to address the audience on "The First Civil Establishment of Christianity by the Emperor Constantine." Mr. Stephen then read an elaborate paper, comprising much most interesting information with reference to the early corruptors of the Church, the use and growth of priestcraft, the usurpation of the Christian people's rights by the bishops, the contentions of the latter among themselves, &c.; laying before his hearers the influences that had corrupted the Church so as to bring her into a condition in which she would accept secular patronage and worldly aggrandizement. Afterwards he briefly stated the history and character of Constantine, and gave a minute and specific account of the edicts and letters by which he established Christianity and prohibited idolatry. Some of the earliest edicts were read; Constantine's presence at the council of Nice was noticed; and the fulsome account of that presence by Eusebius read. Having noticed the baptism and death of the Emperor, Mr. Stephen gave his estimate of his character, and pointed out the disastrous effects of his policy with regard to the Church. "Ever since," he observed, "rulers have been meddling with the consciences of men. Hence persecution with all its horrors," &c. The lecturer closed with an earnest exhortation to his hearers to discharge the duty of Christian men to the cause of Christian truth and Christian freedom—pointing out to them the especial character and urgency of this work at this moment and in this country. "If we fail—and fail now (he closed by saying), our children and children's children will pity our imbecility and despise our memory." The lecture, which took nearly an hour and a half in its delivery, seemed to be intensely listened to by a congregation which, on account of the very inclement weather, consisted mainly of men; and we doubt not that its facts and reasonings will be long remembered and felt. The chairman, after a brief address, dismissed the company. We were not a little astonished that no reporter was present, even from the two papers in which the lecture was advertised—and have been certainly not pleased that no notice has been taken of it in either of these papers. It may be a question whether these papers more need our support than we need theirs; but it is no question at all that the Liberal papers of Manchester ought to report all the movements in behalf of religious liberty.—*From a Correspondent.*

THE CHURCH IN WALES.

Statistics of the different religious denominations in the parish of Llanbeblig (Carnarvon), as taken on Sunday, January 19th, 1847.

(From our Correspondent.)

Population in 1841 7,972.

ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

Llanbeblig, Morning 220
Evening 224
St. Mary's, Morning 226
Evening 202—872

WELSH METHODISTS.

Four Chapels:—

Moriah, Morning 484
Evening 802
Engedi, Afternoon 582
Evening 791
Waenfawr, Morning 295
Evening 346
Bontnewydd, Morning 160
Evening 250—3,710

INDEPENDENTS.

Three Chapels:—

Pendref, Morning 256
Evening 500
Joppa, Afternoon 280
Evening 265
Waenfawr, Morning 40
Evening 60—1,401

WESLEYANS.

Two Chapels:—

The Welsh Chapel, Afternoon 277
Evening 348
English Chapel, Morning 24
Evening 28—677

BAPTIST.

One Chapel:— Morning 100
Evening 250—350

Total 6,138

THE CONTRAST.

Attendance at Dissenting Chapels 6,138
Ditto the Established Church 872

Exhibiting the slight difference of 5,266

It ought to be known, however, that the Church is in a flourishing condition in the town of Carnarvon, which is the most important in North Wales. Alas, then, for the places where it languishes!

NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD RELIGIOUS FREEDOM SOCIETY.—At a general meeting of the members of this Society, held on Friday evening, the 12th inst., in Clavering-place vestry, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Mr. James Pringle in the chair, various suggestions were made as to the present position of the operations of the Society, and the following were appointed the officers for the ensuing year. Treasurer, Mr. W. S. Pringle; secretary, Mr. James Potts; committee, Messrs. Henry Angus, Robert Banks, John Bradburn, George Bell, James Clephan, James Douglas, James Pringle, Thomas Gray, William Greaves, Thomas P. Barkas, William Anderson, and James Wilson.

PLURALITIES IN THE CHURCH.—In November last, a memorial was presented to the Dean and Chapter of Manchester, expressing the regret of those who signed it that Canon Parkinson had accepted the Presidency of St. Bees College while he still retained his canonry in the parish of Manchester. The memorialists stated that, in their opinion, "pluralities of any kind in the Church were incompatible with the proper discharge of parochial duties, and more particularly so when the offices held required attendance at places very distant from each other: that the wants of adequate pastoral aid in the large and increasing parish of Manchester was notorious;" and, that "the disregard shown to this want by any clergyman voluntarily abstracting himself from his parish, and retaining the emoluments which would furnish a competent successor, was an example unworthy of the ministry, injurious to the Church, and very discouraging to the efforts of Christian laymen who were so zealously desirous of promoting the spiritual welfare of the district." The memorialists, therefore, urged on the Dean and Chapter the propriety and necessity of taking such steps as would secure to the parish the services of Canon Parkinson, or the relinquishment of his emoluments for the endowment of a substitute or successor. This document, so valuable for the important principle which it embodied, and so reasonable in its request, was signed by no fewer than 480 respectable Churchmen of the parish, in November last; but the Hon. the Dean refused to call the Chapter together to receive it; and no attempt has to this day been made to remove the ground of dissatisfaction so well expressed by the memorialists.

THE NEW BISHOPS.—A correspondent informs us that the four bishoprics to be created, according to the proposition of Lord John Russell, will be conferred on the Hon. and Rev. Montagu Villiers, M.A., rector of St. George's, Bloomsbury; the Rev. Thomas Dale, M.A., vicar of St. Pancras, and canon residentiary of St. Paul's; the Rev. J. Slade, M.A., canon of Chester, and vicar of Bolton-le-Moors; and the Rev. Benjamin Parsons Symons, D.D., warden of Wadham College, Oxford, and vice-chancellor of the University. *Morning Chronicle*. [It is stated that the new sees are to be—1. St. Alban's, made up of portions of the present dioceses of Rochester and London; 2. Leeds or Nottingham; 3. Cornwall; 4. Manchester. It has been said that these sees are only to be created according as the surplus in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners shall be sufficient to provide revenues for the new sees.]

ECCLIASTICAL COMMISSION.—The new Commission for the inquiry into the state of the several bishoprics in England, dated the 10th of February, 1847, has just been issued. The object of this Commission is principally to inquire whether any and what alterations may advantageously be made in the extent and boundaries of the several dioceses of England and Wales, and also to inquire what limits it may be proper to assign to the Bishop of Manchester and to the Bishops of the other additional bishoprics respectively, regard being had to the circumstance that it is not contemplated to issue any writ to such new bishops to sit and vote as Peers of Parliament.

"DAY TICKETS" FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP.—The following notice is posted on the west door (outside) of Christ Church, Cheltenham:—"Applications for pews or sittings to be made to Mr. Davis, at the Montpellier library, every day, Sunday excepted. Day tickets may be obtained at the same place, admitting to all the services of the day, at 1s. 6d. Tickets for single services, 1s. each. The committee and churchwardens being desirous to prevent, as far as is practicable, the sale of tickets at the church doors on the Sabbath-day, urgently request the public to provide themselves with tickets on the previous day. The door-keepers and pew-openers are strictly prohibited from receiving money as fees, and the public are earnestly requested not to offer it to them."—*Western Luminary*.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.—We are informed that a bill on this subject has been prepared by the Lord Chancellor, as a substitute for the one against which we had occasion to express such strong objections when introduced last session; and that several of the most obnoxious features of the former bill have been modified. We hear that it is proposed to give the bishops some power of summary proceedings, but with the aid of the dignified clergy of the diocese, instead of a jury selected at the will of the diocesan, as proposed by the Bishop of London. *Church and State Gazette*.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—We understand that the committee of this association, which comprehends the districts of Portobello, Musselburgh, Dalkeith, and Tranent, have made arrangements for having delivered, in each of these towns, in the course of March and April next, a series of six lectures on Civil Establishments of Religion. *Scotsman*. [The committee at Manchester are also making arrangements for a series of lectures.]

THE CONFESSORIAL.—CONSPIRACY AMONG THE CLERGY.—The Romanizing clergy in Oxford and other places have lately adopted a plan of leaving open the churches half an hour before each service, and half an hour after it, for the purpose of receiving *Confessions*. They also contemplate establishing *confraternities*, first in the metropolis, and afterward in provincial towns, the internal policy of the "Society being reserved from the eye of the world, to prevent the anticipation and defeat of their plans." One of the expedients for corrupting the Protestant laity is to be the establishment of "well-selected lending libraries" for scientific and literary works, with a judicious admixture of theology and ecclesiastical pamphlets of a certain sort. Dissenters are to be addressed with soft words, instead of "tongue hammers," until the principles of the society are adopted to a sufficient extent, to put down what the *prospectus* terms, "the discordant confusion of tongues," and substitute "the deep and well-toned harmony of the 'one Catholic Church.'" Forewarned is fore armed. *Oxford Chronicle*.

Dr. Cox, of Hackney, is writing in the *Christian Penny Record* a series of papers on the history of the circumstances which led to the first conference of the Anti-state-church party, and justification of the move-

ment. The first article has already appeared, but the large demands upon our space prevent us quoting from it.

WHITTINGTON CLUB.—The first *soirée* of this institution was held at the London Tavern, on Wednesday last; and so great was the attendance of the members and their friends, as to fill the whole of the rooms on the two principal floors of that extensive establishment. There could not have been less than 1,300 present, probably more, including a very large sprinkling of the fair sex. The entertainments were of a mixed character, commencing with an address by Douglas Jerrold, the founder and president of the society, who stated, amongst other things, that the members enrolled already amounted to 1,200. After the address came the trio, "Where the bee sucks" (from Dr. Wilson's original adaptation), admirably executed by Miss Rainforth and Messrs. Manvers and Wetherbee, and Barry Cornwall's "Song of the Seasons," exquisitely sung by Miss Rainforth. The assembly was then addressed by Mr. Charles Knight and Mr. George Dawson, of Birmingham; after which followed a song and quintet, "Here we meet," written by one member of the council and composed by another, and executed with great spirit by Mr. Manvers, Miss Nugent, Miss Bassano, Mr. Showbridge, Mr. S. Buckland, and Mr. Wetherbee. Short speeches were delivered by Dr. Bowring, M.P., and Mr. E. Miall. A vote of thanks to the Chairman was moved by William Howitt, and seconded by Mr. Charles Nash, secretary to the "Metropolitan Early-closing Association." The president then vacated the chair, and the company dispersed through the rooms; in one of which the tables were covered with a collection of very choice original drawings and prints, Daguerreotypes, and other objects of interest. Two other large rooms were appropriated to tea and coffee. On the platform, and amongst the company, we noticed a large number of scientific and literary ladies and gentlemen, and many gentlemen of influence in the banking and commercial world. It is a curious fact, that the premises taken by the society, in Gresham-street, were stated to stand upon ground which forms part of the Whittington estate.

REPRESENTATION OF LEICESTER.—It appears from the *Leicester Mercury* that the general committee of deputies from the Liberal electors of that borough have resolved upon bringing forward Sir Joshua Walsley as a candidate at the next general election. At the same meeting at which this determination was come to, it was also resolved:—

That it is of essential importance for the union and security of the Liberal interest, that the individual who shall be recommended by this committee as the other candidate shall be a gentleman who, in addition to sound views upon commercial and social policy, is, also, a decided advocate of the most extended right of suffrage and of the separation of Church and State. That, for the purpose of securing the services of some popular and influential gentleman who will advocate the above principles, and, at the same time, unite all shades and parties of the Liberal interest in his cordial and effective support, a sub-committee be appointed, consisting of the chairman (Mr. J. D. Harris), Mr. E. S. Ellis, and Mr. W. Biggs, to correspond with the influential public men with whom they are acquainted in different parts of the country, and to make their report to this committee in a fortnight or three weeks from this time.

M. SOYER AND THE SOUP ESTABLISHMENTS FOR IRELAND.—We learn that the Government have resolved forthwith to despatch M. Soyer, the *chef de cuisine* of the Reform Club, to Ireland, with ample instructions to provide his soups for the starving millions of Irish people. Pursuant to this wise and considerate resolve, artificers are at present busied, day and night, constructing the necessary kitchens, apparatus, &c., with which M. Soyer starts for Dublin direct to the Lord-Lieutenant. M. Soyer can supply the whole poor of Ireland, at one meal for each person, once a day. He has informed the Executive, that a bellyful of his soup, once a day, together with a biscuit, will be more than sufficient to sustain the strength of a strong and healthy man. "The food is to be 'consumed on the premises.'" Those who are to partake enter at one avenue, and having been served they retire at another, so that there will be neither stoppage nor confusion. To the infant, the sick, the aged, as well as to distant districts, the food is to be conveyed in cars furnished with portable apparatus for keeping the soup perfectly hot. *Observer*.

THE CHANCELLORSHIP OF CAMBRIDGE.—Prince Albert has declined to accede to the request of the majority of the Senate and the resident members of Cambridge to allow himself to be nominated for the office of Chancellor of the University. Before the departure of the Court for Claremont on Saturday, the following answer was returned by the Prince to the deputation of heads of colleges, who had presented to his Royal Highness the request of the resident members of the university to allow him to be appointed to the office of Chancellor:—

The expression of the wish upon the part of so numerous and influential a portion of the Senate of the University of Cambridge, including so many eminent names, that I should allow myself to be proposed for election into the vacant office of Chancellor of the University, cannot be otherwise than highly gratifying to my feelings. Did it not appear from the proceedings entered into by others in the University that there does not exist that degree of unanimity which alone would leave me at liberty to consent to be put in nomination, I should have felt both the greatest pleasure and pride in acceding to the desire expressed in this address, and so personally connecting myself with your ancient and renowned seat of learning.

Buckingham Palace, Feb. 20, 1847.

Lord Powis's supporters keep the field, and seem determined to persevere. The committee of Lord Powis is composed almost entirely of the members of his own college (St. John's), and they rely, we understand, upon the support of the entire zeal of the Puseyite party, and look for numbers in the non-resident voters.

MUNIFICENT DONATION.—The treasurer to the United Secession Church has received anonymously, from "A Friend to Missions," the very handsome donation of £1,000, two-third parts of which are directed to be applied to the Foreign Mission Fund, and one-third to the Home Mission Fund. *Edinburgh Witness*.

THE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT.

TEN HOURS BILL.

At the sitting on Wednesday, the House of Commons resumed the adjourned debate on Mr. Fielden's Factories Bill, which was discussed for several hours with scarcely any novelty on either side.

The speakers in favour of the bill were Mr. BERNAL, Mr. SHARMAN CRAWFORD, Mr. FERRAND, Mr. BORTHWICK, Sir ROBERT INGLIS, Sir GEORGE STRICKLAND, Lord EBRINGTON, Mr. NEWDEGATE, and Mr. THOMAS DUNCOMBE. Against it there were Sir ANDREW LEITH HAY, Mr. DENNISTOUN, Mr. ROEBUCK, Mr. TRELAUNY, and Mr. MARSLAND.

Most of the speakers in favour of the measure rested upon the arguments that previous interferences have worked well, and that the working classes are universally desirous of the measure, even at the risk of a proportionate reduction in wages. The most prominent speech on the side of the bill was that by Mr. FERRAND, who spoke for a long time, though without advancing the question. He quoted very largely from a pamphlet by Mr. W. R. Greg, describing the noxious effects of factory labour on the health, bodily and mental, especially of women and children. A large part of Mr. Ferrand's speech was devoted to an attack on Mr. Bright and a defence of Lord Ashley, with very extensive desultory references to past controversies; but—although Mr. Ferrand was called to order, on his own appeal to the Speaker—nothing of a very striking nature occurred. In the course of his remarks he mentioned, that the master manufacturers had circulated a statement among the members of the House, declaring, that if Parliament adopted the Ten Hours Bill they would hold the Ministers responsible for the consequence; and he believed they had even gone so far as to threaten to close their mills, and thus to create outbreaks similar to those that took place in 1842.

Sir ANDREW LEITH HAY quoted a similar threat conveyed in the following passage of a letter from a mill-owner in Scotland:—

The millowners with whom I have conversed are quite indignant at this legislative tampering with their interests, being perfectly uncalled for, and threaten unanimously (however great the sacrifice), to put their mills on eight hours a day, and reduce wages one-third: and, believe me, I will, as an individual, cheerfully unite in their resolution; so that, occurring at the present time of high-priced provisions, will at once both astonish the Government, and the factory operatives themselves.

The most notable speech on the adverse side was delivered by Mr. ROEBUCK. The real question, he said, was, whether Parliament could secure to the working man twelve hours' wages for ten hours' work. If Parliament could do that, it might get twelve hours' wages for six hours' work, or even for no work at all. He admitted that a large number of the operatives of this country believed that a reduction of the hours of labour would not affect their wages, and it was under the influence of this belief that they were induced to countenance those who introduced this bill. He totally differed with them; and it was as the sincere friend of the operatives themselves that he deprecated any such legislation as was now contemplated. Its injurious effects upon our trade, both domestic and foreign, were so obvious, that it was unnecessary to dwell upon them. In the present state of our finances, it was the most ill-advised of all measures, and he would say to the chief Minister of the Crown that he would assuredly cripple, to a serious extent, the energies of the country, by lending the authority of his great name to this "most amazing and pernicious fallacy." Indeed, the noble lord dealt with it as if he recognized it as a fallacy. He contrasted the condition of the labouring women in the manufacturing districts, and contended that the former were ten thousand times in a better condition than the latter, who were ill-clothed, ill-fed, ill-housed, and ill-paid by the country gentlemen of England. He would test their humanity by proposing to insert a clause in this bill extending to the agricultural woman the benefits it would give to the manufacturing woman.

Mr. S. CRAWFORD, who supported the bill, stated that at a public meeting of the working classes of Rochdale both men and women had declared their wish that he should support this bill, and their willingness to risk the chance of a loss of wages, in case it should be passed into law.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE warmly supported the bill, declaring at the same time that the manufacturing operatives believed that the shortening of their hours of toil would not diminish the rate of wages.

Mr. BORTHWICK and Sir R. INGLIS both declared themselves in favour of passing a ten hours bill at once, instead of trying the experiment of an eleven hours bill. If the latter measure were conceded, it would prolong agitation; if the former, it would put a stop to it for ever.

Amidst a storm of cries to divide, Mr. BICKHAM ESCOTT moved the adjournment of the debate, in order that the House might hear opinions on the bill expressed by the leaders of the three parties in the House, Lord John Russell, Sir R. Peel, and Lord George Bentinck. Mr. BRIGHT seconded the motion. Sir R. PEEL observed, that his objections to any further restrictions on the hours of labour remained in full force; but as they were well known to the public, he felt himself to be consulting the public convenience by remaining occasionally silent. Lord GEORGE BENTINCK rose for the sole purpose of declaring himself in favour of the bill.

The motion for adjournment was negatived by 282 to 7. The House again divided, virtually upon the main question; which was carried by 195 to 87. But six o'clock, the hour of adjournment on Wednesdays, had arrived, and the formal motion of the second reading was not put by the Speaker.

On Friday, on the question that the bill be read a second time, Mr. LEADER objected to the motion coming on at that late hour of the night, and suggested that the bill should be postponed till Wednesday next. Mr. ESCOTT would not object to the second reading, but should meet the motion for going into committee with

a direct negative. The bill was then read a second time.

REFORMATION OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, Lord BROUGHAM presented a petition from Mr. Rushton, the official magistrate, and nineteen borough magistrates of Liverpool, asking for revision of the criminal law, especially as it applied to juvenile offenders. The petitioners spoke from practical experience in the working of the law; and the results of their observation were these:—

In a population of 300,000, during the last seven years, there were no fewer than 51,000 cases of persons committed for trial; of which number about one-fifth or 10,000 had been committed no fewer than five times—so efficacious had the law been! Lord Brougham then cited from the petition the cases of the fourteen juvenile offenders, boys, which were cited by Mr. Hill in his report to the Law Amendment Society. The fourteen offenders had been committed, in the aggregate, a hundred and twenty times! and the cost of all those prosecutions was £889. Had it not been for the admirable arrangement in Liverpool, by which all these cases were entrusted to a public prosecutor, the cost would have been much greater.

Lord Brougham glanced generally at the inefficacy of the only two alternative punishments for grave offences—imprisonment and transportation.

He compared their cost: to send 4,000 persons to a penal settlement, entails a cost of £500,000: to imprison the same number, £300,000. Remote punishments have slight effect in checking the fevered impulses of crime; and short terms of imprisonment have no effect on the mind of the culprit, who only counts the days of his confinement with a pre-determination to resume his evil courses. It has been found, however, by practical experience, that reformation is not impossible. For ten years an institution for that purpose has existed near Hamburg. At Mettraye, near Tours, an institution was founded in 1839 (by M. de Metz), where youthful prisoners still undergoing sentence of imprisonment are received, and are trained in a community made to resemble as nearly as possible the domestic relations of a family. This is partly supported by its own labour, partly by grants from Government. Of 521 boys received since its establishment, seventeen had died; twelve had been sent back to prison; 144 had been put out in situations; of that number seven had relapsed, nine were of doubtful character, 128 conducted themselves to the full satisfaction of their employers. With this Lord Brougham contrasted the report by the Rev. Mr. Clay, Chaplain of Preston Gaol, respecting 1,050 prisoners; of whom 527 did not know the name of the Queen, though she had been ten years on the throne; 490 could not understand the words "vice," "virtue," "guilt," "sin"; only twenty had received anything like an education—even they were of the convict class, and their reading lay exclusively in that branch of works, exalting highwaymen and other criminals, which disgraces our literature.

After a few words from the Duke of Richmond, who agreed with Lord Brougham in all that he had said,

Earl GREY stated that he also concurred with most, if not all, of what had fallen from the noble and learned lord. The subject was one under the consideration of the Government, and he had great pleasure in informing their lordships that a bill would soon be brought into the other House of Parliament, providing for the necessary legal power for making the required reformation in the law. He also stated that the whole system of transportation was about to undergo considerable alterations; alterations, in fact, which would amount to its almost total abolition.

THE CIVIL WAR IN PORTUGAL.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, Lord BEAUMONT put a question respecting the captive insurgent leaders in Portugal. At the capitulation of Torres Vedras, Count Bomfim's forces were permitted to retire with the honours of war, but the officers of the division were marched to Lisbon, and placed on board a frigate, where they sustained great privation. Subsequently there was an idea that they contemplated escape; forty or fifty of them were put on board a very small brig, and the Government came to the resolution of sending them to Angola, one of the most unhealthy settlements in Africa. There is a British fleet at Lisbon, for the protection of British interests; but it was understood that, had the Queen been obliged to retreat, the fleet would have afforded protection to her person; and Lord Beaumont suggested that it would consist with perfect neutrality if the British Government were to induce that of Portugal to revoke the decree, and restore the prisoners to their original position as prisoners of war.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE said that the Ministers of Great Britain, Belgium, and France, had already addressed representations on the subject to the Portuguese Government. The fleet in the Tagus was intended solely to afford protection to British interests; though, no doubt, it would be a refuge for any fugitive whom it could protect from personal danger—above all, the Queen. Lord Lansdowne, however, intimated that, if the character of the war were changed, especially by the presence of Dom Miguel, existing treaties might be revived, and Great Britain might abandon her merely neutral position.

The Earl of ABERDEEN repelled the idea that it would be proper to interfere with the course which the Portuguese Government might think it necessary to take for its own safety; a principle dangerous, and open to great objection. He observed, that the present war has been characterized by a striking absence of cruelty—there has been no instance of capital punishment or sanguinary revenge; in which it contrasts favourably with Spain. There is an impression, that the British Government is favourable to the insurrection; and perhaps the presence of an overwhelming force in the Tagus tended to strengthen that impression.

Lord LANSDOWNE did not believe that the Admiral, Sir William Parker, or the British Envoy, Colonel Wyld, were capable of departing from the instructions of strict neutrality which had been given to them. Such advice as had been given had been tendered as a view to the Queen's interests, and without the slightest intention of countenancing the insurrection.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH said, that all representations not backed by some decisive measure, are a farce: William Parker had been ordered to leave the Tagus in the event of our representations not being attended to, the British Minister would at once have called attention; for without the presence of the British

fleet the Queen of Portugal would by this time have met Dom Miguel in London.

Lord BROUGHAM deprecated this very irregular discussion; to which however he added a few words, and then it dropped.

BREWING FROM SUGAR BILL.

The Brewing from Sugar Bill and the Distilling from Sugar Bill were read a second time in the House of Lords on Thursday.

On Friday an animated discussion on the measure took place. The Earl of CLARENDON having briefly explained the nature of the Bills,

Lord STANLEY met the motion by one for referring the two measures to a select committee, mainly on two grounds—that there is a tendency at present to headlong legislation, illustrated by the rapidity with which the suspension of the navigation-laws has been followed by an inquiry with a view to abrogation; and, next, that the reasons for the measures, their necessity and anticipated advantages, had not been satisfactorily made out. He maintained that the bills would be of no use to anybody—of no advantage to the West Indies, of no avail in mitigating distress in this country. He went into minute calculations to show that Ministers were quite at sea as to the equivalent value of sugar and malt, and that the increase in the consumption of sugar must, of necessity, take place in the foreign article. He declared, however, that he did not wish to defeat the bills, but merely to have them thoroughly, fairly, and carefully investigated.

Earl GREY avowed that Ministers were pledged, after the equalization of the Sugar-duties, to carry out every practicable relief of the Colonies from restrictions adverse to their interests. In the particular instance also, they were pledged to remove restrictions as they affected distillers and brewers; and he contended that there was no ground for assuming that the increased consumption of sugar would all go to the benefit of the foreign grower. He believed that the Colonies, with benefit to themselves, would be able to furnish increased supplies for this country, at reduced prices.

The amendment was supported, on Protection principles, by Lord ASHBURTON, the Duke of RICHMOND, the Marquis of SALISBURY, and Lord REDESDALE. The bills were supported by Lords MONTEAGLE and BEAUMONT. The Marquis of WESTMEATH voted in support of the Government.

The amendment was negatived, by 36 to 25; the House went into Committee; and both bills were reported without amendment.

THE LABOURING POOR (IRELAND) BILL.

In the House of Commons, on Friday, the principal business was a discussion on the order of the day for the second reading of the Labouring Poor (Ireland) Bill—the bill to indemnify Ministers for steps taken on their own responsibility during the recess. The discussion was, in many respects, a repetition of those which have preceded it.

Mr. DILLON BROWN began by pleading the undiminished misery and the spread of starvation; and more Irish members followed at intervals with similar recitals.

Sir BENJAMIN HALL renewed the attack on Irish landlords for neglecting their duties. Perhaps they have the excuse, *this* year, that they have not received their rents; but what provision did they make against the danger out of the rents received *last* year? Nor are the individual landlords alone to blame: there is in Dublin an association for collecting a large "rent," and what money has the Repeal Association refunded to the people in this time of unprecedented distress?

Sir WILLIAM VERNER quite agreed in this censure of the Repeal rent, but urged apologies for the landlords.

Mr. JOHN O'CONNELL vindicated the value of the Repeal Association to the people of Ireland; interposing, as it does, between the oppressor and the oppressed. Honourable gentlemen called Repeal "a phantom." What? Repeal a phantom? If so, it was a most gorgeous and attractive phantom. But what was the Union? The refusal of a domestic legislature had brought all these misfortunes on Ireland; and he denounced "these shameless accusations."

Mr. HENRY GRATTAN followed, in a strain which Mr. ROEBUCK characterized as "sound and fury, signifying nothing."

The discussion proceeded in this wrangling fashion for several hours; practical remarks occurring rarely. *Inter alia*, Mr. SMITH O'BRIEN urged the necessity of considering, much more attentively, some well-arranged system of emigration.

Two of the Ministers put in short unpretending speeches amid the storm of disputation. Mr. LABOUCHERE declared that there was no necessity whatever to impress upon Government the state of Ireland: if unable to avert all the consequences, their measures have saved the lives of hundreds of thousands. He understood that there exists in the wretched county of Mayo an organized combination [apparently among the poor] to prevent the cultivation of the soil, in order that the Government and England may be obliged to maintain the people: he exhorted influential classes to warn the people against that snare. Lord JOHN RUSSELL spoke in similar terms. On the subject of a permanent Poor-law for Ireland, the noble lord made the following remarks:—

There was not, he thought, the smallest hesitation on the part of the people of this country to make any sacrifices that might be necessary to alleviate in a degree—for it must only be in a degree—the very great calamity which had fallen on Ireland; but he believed there was an opinion in this country which was now spreading among the people of Ireland, that, whatever might be done in the present year, in reference to future years, it should be provided by law, that all those who were in a state of destitution should be relieved, when the workhouse was not full, in the workhouse—when it was full, in some other place.

Ultimately the House got into Committee, and the bill passed that stage; to be reported on Monday.

IMMIGRATION OF LABOURERS INTO THE WEST INDIES.

Mr. BARKLY on Friday asked when the Government would be prepared to carry into execution their intended plan for establishing steam communication between the west coast of Africa and the West Indies, for

the purpose of facilitating the emigration of free labourers?

Mr. HAWES said that not a long time would elapse before a steam vessel would be prepared to enter on the service for which she was destined. All parties were agreed that the West Indian colonies were greatly in want of labourers, and the proprietors had frequently applied to the Legislature and the Government to afford them facilities for the introduction of labourers. Immigration from the East Indies had been tried, but it was found to be too costly to be continued, and therefore Government had thought it right to furnish facilities for a cheaper supply of labour to the West Indies. For this purpose a steam-boat, fitted up under the authority of the Government, and carrying out engineers appointed by the Government, was about to proceed to the west coast of Africa—the Kroo coast—where slavery did not exist. Labourers from that coast at present in the West Indies had expressed a wish to be sent there, in order that they might persuade their fellow-countrymen to emigrate to the West Indies, to obtain the wages which were given to labourers there. He wished it to be distinctly understood that this project was merely in the nature of an experiment; it would be conducted under the immediate superintendence of the Government, and, at present, it was not intended to extend beyond the period of one year, by which time it would be ascertained whether voluntary emigration was likely to take place from Africa. Mr. Hawes said the name of the vessel was the *Scourge*.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The House of Commons, on Monday, having resolved itself into a committee of ways and means,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (who was suffering from indisposition) rose to lay the financial statement and prospects of the country before the committee. After briefly advertent to the prevailing dearth in Ireland, the right hon. gentleman observed that the finances of the country were, perhaps, never in a state when they could better bear the extraordinary demand which that dearth would make upon them.

The balances in the Exchequer for this year were nine millions. For the first time, within the recollection of the oldest among them, there was no deficiency in the finances of the quarter, the balances in the Exchequer being sufficient to pay the dividends. The Customs receipts on every article of import, with the exception of those upon which the duties had been reduced, had been higher this year than during the corresponding period of the preceding year. With the exception of soap, the produce of every material article paying excise duties had considerably increased. From the 5th of January to the 13th of February, there was an increase in the receipts of the ordinary revenue over those of the corresponding period last year of half a million. But they were not entitled, under existing circumstances, to count upon the continuance of such prosperity. Their commercial and trading activity might receive a temporary check, although there was no symptom of any such revulsion as had sometimes taken place. The trade and commerce of the country was at present on a sound instead of on a speculative basis. They owed much, however, to the bill of last year for the regulation of the currency, without which the most disastrous consequences might have ensued. Investments had for some time back been made at home, instead of money being applied to the purchase of Mississippi stocks or Pennsylvania bonds. But the high prices of food must tell upon the comforts of the people, and diminish the consumption of articles paying duty. Last year the principal increase in the revenue had arisen from the increased consumption of excisable articles. The whole produce of the Customs and Excise for the year ending the 5th of January last was 34,557,000*l.* Of this sum articles of food, such as sugar, corn, and others, contributed 5,530,000*l.*; wine, spirits, tea, coffee, beer, and malt, about 21,785,000*l.*; tobacco, 4,336,000*l.*; making the total amount received from the consumption of articles of food, solid and liquid, and tobacco, no less than 31,653,000*l.* out of the 34,557,000*l.* mentioned above. Along with the high price of food had come a high price of cotton, which had occasioned a diminished employment of the people in the manufacturing districts. There had besides existed, for some time back, a considerable demand for bullion for the purchase of food abroad, the natural consequence of which was a pressure upon the money market, which necessarily operated to check commercial enterprise, and to limit the means of giving employment to the people. This demand for bullion, however, had not been sufficiently great to excite any alarm. The difference between the amount of bullion now in the Bank, and that at the same time last year, was only 1,200,000*l.* On the 13th of February, 1846, there was in the Bank bullion to the value of 13,476,000*l.*, whereas, on the 13th of February, 1847, it had diminished to 12,299,000*l.* It was surprising, considering all the circumstances of the case, so little bullion had been drained from the country. The drain would undoubtedly have been greater had it not been for the quantities of manufactured goods which had been sent to America and other countries, in payment of portions of the large importations of food which had taken place. The Bank of France, too, was now in a better situation than it was in some time ago. Mr. Goulburn had anticipated last year a surplus from the customs of 76,000*l.*, and from the excise a surplus of 700,000*l.*, making a total surplus anticipated from the customs and excise of 776,000*l.* But subsequent legislation, which had admitted foreign sugar into the English market, had given rise to an increase in the ordinary revenue, which could not have been anticipated by Mr. Goulburn when he made his statement, to the extent of 304,000*l.* Had this been foreseen, the increase would have been set down at about a million. But if they referred to the balance sheet up to the 5th of January this year, they would find that the excess of income over expenditure was no less than 2,846,000*l.* Since that period, too, the produce of the revenue had exceeded that of the corresponding quarter last year to an unexpected extent. But the statement which he was about to make would be based upon the produce of the revenue up to the 5th January last.

He proceeded to state what would be the probable income from the 5th of April next, to 5th of April, 1848:—

The produce of the Customs up to 5th of January last was 20,540,500*l.* Of this a no less sum than 793,000*l.* had been received from importations of corn. For the first six months of the coming year they could expect no income from that source. But he was not prepared to make a deduction to the whole extent of the duties received from corn, because he had reason to believe that a considerably increased revenue would be derived from increased consumption of sugar during the ensuing year. On these articles only had the Customs receipts fallen off during the past five months, and these were articles on which the duties

had been reduced, but of which the imports had greatly increased; and he hoped that still increasing importations of these articles would soon lead to an increase in the duties received from them. He believed, then, that he was entitled to assume that the customs receipts for the coming year would not be less than 20,000,000. As to the Excise, the produce from this source of revenue was, up to the 5th of January last, 13,988,000; and he thought that they might reckon, for the ensuing year, upon receiving from this source 13,700,000. Since the beginning of the present quarter the increase in the excise duties had reached the sum of 106,000. Even in Ireland the excise duties had been on the increase for the past six weeks. The stamps had produced, up to the 5th of January, 7,505,000, and he assumed that they would yield about the same amount next year. The land and assessed taxes had, last year, produced 4,272,000; and he calculated upon receiving from the same source, during the coming year, about 4,270,000. The property-tax, up to the 5th of January last, yielded about 5,395,000. Since the 5th of January the increase of this tax had been 169,000; but he would only assume it to produce, for the coming year, the sum of 5,300,000. The produce of the post-office and Crown lands he would assume to be the same as last year—the former having yielded 845,000, and the latter 120,000. From certain miscellaneous sources of revenue they had last year received 427,000; but he would only anticipate from these sources 330,000 for the ensuing year. Taking all these items together they would make the ordinary revenue for the next financial year amount to 52,065,000.

He then called the attention of the committee to the contemplated expenditure:—

The interest of the debt, funded and unfunded, would be 28,045,000. The estimate for charges on the consolidated fund was 2,522,000; the charges for the Irish constabulary 175,000, making a total of 2,700,000, which, with the interest on the funded and unfunded debt, made a grand total of 30,745,000. The estimate for the army was 8,840,074, including militia and commissariat charges; that for the navy was 7,561,876; for the ordnance, 2,679,127; and for the miscellaneous votes, 3,750,000; making the whole ordinary expenditure for the coming year amount to 51,576,000. In the foregoing estimate of expenditure, he had omitted to state the sums which would probably be required for the relief of Irish distress, and it was now his duty to state what was likely to be the extent of the demand upon the Exchequer for the relief of that country. Up to January last, the expense of the permanent staff of the Board of Works had been 20,500; that of the commissariat officers employed 27,500. Up to the present time the expenditure for the purchase of grain had been 295,000. Up to the middle of February the issues from the Exchequer under the Labour-rate Act had been 2,400,000. Such being the case, he feared that the monthly expenditure, for some time to come, would not fall much short of a million of money. As it was probable that the expenditure for Ireland would continue until next harvest, and to some extent even beyond that time, he could not estimate the total probable charge upon the Exchequer, for the coming year, for the relief of Irish distress, at less than 8,000,000. This, with the sum already advanced for this purpose, would make the whole expenditure from August last to next harvest, amount to about 10,000,000. And it was on account of this enormous and necessary expenditure that he had, amongst other reasons, resisted Lord G. Bentinck's scheme for advancing 16,000,000 for the completion of Irish railways. He did not believe, had that sum been advanced, as demanded, that one penny of the 10,000,000 alluded to would have been saved.

Means of raising the amount required:—

Considering the extraordinary additional burden which the state of Ireland threw upon the Exchequer, it must be evident to all that he must go into the market to borrow. Were he inclined to add to the taxation of the country, he thought that no increased taxation would suffice to provide the necessary means in time. If he went to the market it was not as a matter of choice but of necessity. As to the amount to be borrowed, if he borrowed only a part of the required 8,000,000, the result would be to reduce the balances in the Exchequer. That, therefore, was a course which he was unwilling to take. Exchanges were on the turn, but they were not now so adverse to us as they had been some time ago. But the chief reason why he was indisposed to reduce the balances in the Exchequer was, the uncertainty which existed of our having a good harvest next year. He thought, therefore, that the wiser and more prudent course was to borrow the whole amount. He did not think that it should be added to the permanent debt, inasmuch as a large proportion of it would be chargeable upon Irish property. The next question was, whether, in borrowing so large a sum, it was necessary to resort to increased taxation to meet the interest upon the loan, and to pay, from time to time, portions of the principal. He thought it inadvisable, during the coming year, to propose any alteration in the taxation of the country. It would next year be indispensable for Parliament to deal with the question of the renewal of the income-tax. It would be unwise to pre-judge, this year, the course which a "new Parliament" perhaps might take on this subject next session. It would be a better course to pursue to provide for the interest of the proposed loan out of the ordinary revenue, and leave the questions involved in the re-adjustment of taxation open for discussion next year.

Financial prospects of the coming year:—

The difference between the revenue and the expenditure for the coming year would be about 489,000. Assuming that they borrowed eight millions, the interest upon that sum, at three per cent., would be 240,000; at three-and-a-half per cent., 280,000; and at four per cent., 320,000. He believed they would be able to borrow the whole amount at three-and-a-half per cent., making the whole interest payable upon the loan 280,000. But that would not be the only demand upon them in the shape of interest, as he feared that they would be under the necessity of raising the interest on Exchequer bills. Exchequer bills were now at three halfpence a day, and he proposed to raise them a halfpenny a day, the annual cost of which would be 142,000. This, with the interest on the proposed loan, would raise the increased interest on the whole debt for the coming year to 422,000. The total expenditure for the year, with the addition of the interest upon the loan and increased interest on Exchequer bills, would be 51,998,000, deducting which from the total estimated receipts of the year would leave a balance of 67,000. In addition to this balance, he anticipated to receive from China a sum not yet paid, to the extent of 450,000. But with this additional receipt he had to couple an additional expenditure to the amount of 185,000, which was necessary to cover the excess of naval expenditure during the financial year ending 5th of April last. Adding, therefore, the extraordinary receipts to the ordinary receipts, and the extraordinary expenditure just noticed to the ordinary expenditure of the year, the total would be as follows:—Total income, 52,515,000; total expenditure, 52,189,000; leaving a surplus of 326,000.

If it were necessary hereafter to take more decided measures, he would not shrink from proposing such as would bring the income of the country to bear a more favourable proportion to its expenditure. It was evident, from all he had stated, that it was not in his power to spare any revenue this year, which was the most effective answer that he could give to those who had urged him to reduce the duties on tea, coffee, paper, tobacco, &c.

Mr. HUME was surprised that the Government, whilst expending ten millions upon Ireland, had made no provision for the distress existing in Scotland, and regretted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not come forward with a proposal for the reduction of many of the imposts which yet pressed so injuriously upon our trade.

Mr. WILLIAMS objected to the increase proposed to the annual expenditure, independently of the extraordinary advances which were to be made to Ireland.

Mr. ROEBUCK insisted upon accompanying the granting of any advances to Ireland with a stringent and effective poor-law, and upon extending the income-tax to that country.

The noble lord had put off the Poor-law Bill, which was in reality the most important one before the House that session. He had put off that bill for a fortnight, with the remarkable statement, and he wondered at the sanguine temperament of the noble lord which bore him up so buoyantly on every occasion—he had stated that "he hoped and believed he would receive no opposition on the principle of that bill." Now the principle of the bill was that the property of Ireland should be taxed for the support of the poor of Ireland; and he (Mr. Roebuck) rather suspected that the statement of the honourable gentleman opposite was correct, namely, that seventy of the largest landed proprietors in Ireland had signed a statement which was in fact a protest against that bill of the noble lord. And he held besides in his hand a memorial from a deputation of Roman Catholic clergymen from a district in Ireland, disavowing those who called themselves "the Irish party." The object of those gentlemen who took to themselves the title of "the Irish party" was to represent themselves to the House as the representatives of the feelings and sentiments of the Irish people. He would not use any harsh terms, although (as we understood the honourable gentleman) the word "mendacity" had been before that time used to characterize statements made in that House. Those gentlemen (the Irish party) had banded themselves together to oppose the proposition of the noble lord with regard to Ireland; and that it was which cast a shade of suspicion over the transaction—not over the conduct of the noble lord, but over that of those parties, both in that House and out of it, who offered no opposition or objection to the passing of measures for getting of money from England for Ireland, but who were at the bottom of a powerful opposition to the establishment of an effectual Poor-law for Ireland.

Lord J. RUSSELL did not agree with the honourable and learned gentleman in advising the extension, at the present moment, of the income-tax to Ireland. He concurred with him, however, in thinking that, under ordinary circumstances, the property of Ireland should support the pauperism of Ireland. He hoped that the Irish landlords would not interpose any opposition to a proper poor-law for that country.

And on this subject I maintain still what I said the other night, that I do not think on the principle of that poor-law there will be any objection raised on the part of Irish members, or on the part of Irish proprietors in general. With regard to the details—to the mode of rating, to the extent of the districts to which the rating is to be applied, and such points—there may, no doubt, be much difference of opinion; but on the principle of the extension of the poor-law in Ireland I believe no difference will be found to exist.

Lord G. BENTINCK, after delivering himself of an eloquent epitaph on the defunct Railway Bill, which, he maintained, would have been the proper *panacea* for Ireland, observed that he well-understood why it was that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was not disposed, at the present moment, to resort to additional taxes, as that would be a course which might seriously compromise the popularity of the Government, with a general election very near at hand.

Mr. SHAW was not opposed to the principle of a poor-law for Ireland, although he could not agree with all the details of the plan of the noble lord.

Mr. GOULBURN thought that the Government had acted discreetly in resorting to a loan for the proposed advances to Ireland, instead of to increased taxation, in the present circumstances of the country.

The conversation then became desultory, and was continued by Mr. V. SMITH, Mr. Alderman THOMPSON, Mr. MOFFATT, Mr. F. T. BAKING, Mr. MUNTZ, Mr. B. ESCOTT, Mr. EWART, Mr. BANKES, Mr. M. J. O'CONNELL, and Mr. FINCH, when

The vote for eight millions out of the Consolidated Fund, moved for by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was agreed to, and the Chairman reported progress.

The report on the Labouring Poor (Ireland) Bill was then brought up and received.

The House then went into committee on the Landed Property (Ireland) Advances Bill. The bill passed through committee, and the Chairman reported.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SUPPLY.—In a committee of supply, on Wednesday, a resolution was passed granting £18,350,700 to her Majesty on account of Exchequer bills.

On Thursday the House of Commons was counted out—only twenty-seven members being present at four o'clock.

THE IRISH MEASURE.—Mr. ESCOTT, on behalf of Mr. Roebuck, gave notice that on going into committee on the landed property (Ireland), he should move that in any plan for the relief of Irish destitution by means of loans to the landlords, the property so assisted ought to be subjected to the same system of taxation as in Great Britain.

IRISH CORPORATIONS.—In answer to Captain Layard, Mr. LABOUCHERE said the Government was preparing a bill for the amendment of the elective franchise in Ireland, and also for the amendment of Irish corporations.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR IRELAND.—Mr. HAWES stated, that he had received a notification from the House of Assembly in Nova Scotia, that they had contributed £1,000 towards the funds of the "British Association for the relief of extreme distress in remote parts of Ireland and Scotland."

ECCLIASTICAL COMMISSION.—Lord JOHN RUSSELL gave notice that on Tuesday week he would move for leave to introduce a bill for altering the constitution of the Ecclesiastical Commission.

POOR RELIEF (IRELAND).—On Friday, Lord JOHN RUSSELL obtained leave to introduce a bill "for the appointment of a Board for the Supervision of the Administration of the Laws for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland."

PUBLIC PETITIONS.—There are at present before the House of Commons six petitions for a reduction of the tea duties, signed by 2,340 persons; three petitions for the encouragement of emigration from Ireland, signed by 2,148 persons; and ninety-eight petitions in favour of a Ten-hours Factory Bill, signed by 20,646 persons.

THE DIVISION ON LORD G. BENTINCK'S IRISH RAILWAY BILL.—A mistake was made in taking the votes on the division of Wednesday morning last. The correct statement is as follows:—Against the bill, 332; in favour of it, 118: majority, 214. It appears that 69 Irish members voted in the division on Lord George's bill, and 35 did not vote. There is one Irish seat vacant. Of the members who voted, 38 went with the ayes, and 31 with the noes. Among the ayes, there were 2 Liberals, 22 Conservatives, and 14 Repealers. Among the noes, there were 22 Liberals, 3 Conservatives, and 6 Repealers. Among the Absentees were 12 Liberals, 16 Conservatives, and 6 Repealers.

THE BREWING FROM SUGAR AND DISTILLING FROM SUGAR BILLS were read a third time and passed in the House of Lords on Monday.

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.—In reply to Sir DR LACY EVANS, LORD MORPETH said, that it was not intended at present to propose the erection of a new bridge.

PORTUGUESE INSURGENTS.—In reply to Lord JOHN MANNERS, LORD PALMERSTON said he believed, in consequence of the representations of the French, English, and Belgian Ministers at Lisbon, the Portuguese Government had determined to send the insurgents captured at Torres Vedras to Madeira, instead of to the coast of Africa.

EXPORT OF CORN FROM RUSSIA.—Mr. WAWN, on Monday, asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether Government had received information of any steps taken by the Russian Government to prevent the exportation of corn? Viscount PALMERSTON said he believed a rumour to that effect had been circulated, but the communications he had received recently from her Majesty's Minister at St. Petersburg led to a totally different conclusion, and induced him to suppose that the Russian Government looked for a considerable exportation of corn to this country.

THE RAILWAY BILL is to be read a second time on Monday next.

THE IRISH BILLS.—It is at present arranged that the bills for the Improvement of Landed Estates and for a permanent Poor-law, are to be brought on simultaneously for second reading on Monday week.

THE AGRICULTURAL TENANT BILL was, on Monday, after some opposition, read a second time; to be referred to a select committee.

DISTRESS IN THE HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND.—On Monday, Mr. E. ELLICE entered into details showing the deplorable condition of some districts of the Highlands. In one place, containing 1,100 people, 950 of the number were in a state of destitution; and it was the unanimous opinion of a meeting held there, that in twenty-four hours many hundreds would be suffering the pangs of hunger and starvation. Mr. FRASER reported that nothing could be done by the people themselves, and the proprietors, in many instances, did not appear to be making any provision for them. The seed corn was being consumed, and, in many instances, had been wholly used. In a letter written by a lady in the Isle of Skye, it was stated that, unless some means were taken to supply the people, they must starve. Sir G. GREY said, that a few days ago he had received a letter from Sir John Macneill, the president of the Board of Supervision, inclosing an extract from the minutes of that board, in which they directed that, in consequence of the distress which prevailed in certain parts of the country, inquiries should be instituted, and the inspectors were to relieve the wants of paupers in cases of emergency, and to unite with the other officers of the board in seeing that the poor-law was fairly carried out. Captain Cowan, who had been extensively employed on the coasts, had received orders which had for their object to maintain the supplies of food in the distressed districts. He wished, also, to state the course which Government had taken with respect to any individuals who seemed to have neglected the duties devolved upon them by their position. Information of the state of the district had been sent, without delay, to the proprietor, and he believed the general effect to have been, that those who, from various causes, had been less alive than others to the emergency, had been stimulated to increased activity.

TEN PERSONS DROWNED IN AN OMNIBUS.—In passing the quay at Bideford, on Tuesday last, a horse in an omnibus took fright, and plunged with the vehicle into the sea; the tide was up, and eight out of nine passengers were drowned. The night was dark, and there were upwards of twenty feet of water, the tide being up. There was a terrific shriek from the passengers, but it was only momentary. A woman who was on the roof fortunately got ashore, and Mr. Michael Chapple, a glovemaking, of Torrington, by a desperate effort, burst open the door of the omnibus, and swam ashore, assisted by a soldier, who bravely jumped in to his rescue. He was the only one of the inside passengers who escaped—the remainder all perished. A coroner's jury have returned the following verdict:—"Accidental death, and the jury strongly recommended an indictment being laid against the authorities of the town for allowing the quay-side to remain in the dangerous state it was."—*Observer*.

A letter from Freiwalden, in Austria, of the 8th, states that the celebrated hydropathist, Priessner, had just received a stroke of apoplexy, and that his life was in great danger.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

PORTUGAL.

We have advices from Lisbon to the 15th inst. The belligerents remained in the same positions, Saldanha having resolved not to invest Oporto until the Miguelite general, Povoas, acting under the Junta, shall have been defeated. Antas had emerged from Oporto northward, with a considerable force, and made a demonstration to attack Casal, but no result had yet taken place. The Queen's cause was looking rather worse, chiefly because it was not progressing. The Government was anxiously looking for the realization of a loan in London. Colonel Wyld was about to try for a pacific mediation. Sir H. Seymour, our new Minister, had not yet arrived.

AMERICA.

By the arrival of the packet ship, Oxford, we have advices from New York up to the 4th inst. This arrival brings some interesting news. We learn from the seat of war that the American forces had taken the city of Victoria from the Mexicans without a battle or even a shot being fired. The occupation was effected on the 4th of January by General Quitman and Colonel Kinney. Colonel Kinney states that the Mexican force at San Luis amounts to thirty thousand men, and he estimates their entire force in the field at fifty thousand men. The capture of Tampico, he says, has created the greatest excitement throughout the country. Generals Butler, Worth, and Wool had, at Saltillo, eight thousand men, considered the flower of the army. Colonel Kinney speaks confidently of success in case of an engagement at Saltillo. General Taylor, Twiggs, Pillow, and Patterson, with six thousand men, were at Victoria, waiting orders from General Scott.

The Secretary of the Treasury has presented to the Senate a report in answer to the resolution of that body, calling for information relative to an increase or diminution of duties, with a view to the augmentation of the revenue. The report recommends an increase on duties as follows:—

On coal, 10 per cent.; iron, 10 per cent.; on cloths and cashmeres, costing over 4 dols. per yard, 10 per cent.; on brown, white, and refined sugar, 20 per cent.; on cotton prints costing over 30 cents per square yard, 5 per cent.; on cotton goods not printed, costing over 20 cents per square yard, 5 per cent.; on white and red lead, 10 per cent. These increased duties, he estimates, will produce 1,418,000 dollars. Diminished duties of 5 per cent. are recommended on axes, hammers, chisels, ploughshares, and cotton goods costing not over 8 cents per square yard, which will produce 55,000 dollars. The tax on tea and coffee is again recommended, reduced to 15 per cent., and some few articles on the free list to be taxed, but none of any consequence.

TAHITI.

A correspondent of the *Times* gives the following intelligence from Tahiti, to the 12th of October, 1846:—"Monsieur Bruat, having been promoted to the rank of Rear-Admiral, is about to be replaced by Captain Lavand, now on his way to Tahiti, and (the former) being desirous to adjust matters as much as possible before resigning his government to his successor, has (as I stated in my last letter) invited Queen Pomare to Tahiti, to mediate between him and her subjects, who are still in arms. Negotiations were lately opened between the French authorities and the hostile tribes, who continue to occupy their strongholds in the mountains, but the Tahitians declined to listen to any terms that did not emanate from their own Queen, but stated that at her request they would deliver up their arms to her. They also stipulated that their Queen should be put in full possession of her lawful rights, and that the French should demolish all the forts they have raised on the coast of Tahiti. In this state of affairs the Governor made all possible endeavours to procure the Queen's presence in Tahiti. The poor Queen, who is still residing with her husband at Raiatea in great poverty, agreed to come to Tahiti on an invitation from her own people. Something of this sort was got up and presented to her; then she stated her old objection of going on board a French vessel. In this stage of the negotiations a sort of compromise seems to have been made. The *Grampus*, which arrived here from the Sandwich Islands on the 29th of September, goes to fetch the Queen as far as Eimeo (an island close by), from which place a French man-of-war will convey her to Tahiti. What the French will do with her God only knows. Perhaps it were better that the Tahitians should yield to an overwhelming destiny, and live in peace (if there be any chance of such a consummation), than slowly, but surely, perish in their blood, or die from sickness, engendered by the hardships they endure in their encampments."

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

LORD NORMANBY'S SOIREE came off at Paris, on Friday, and created an immense sensation amongst our excitable neighbours. The correspondent of the *Chronicle* has the following remarks on the event:—"It so happened that Lord Normanby's party was fixed for the same day as M. Guizot's usual weekly reception, so that the two antagonists were placed in a manner *en présence*, and their mutual friends and adherents had the opportunity of showing the bent of their predilections by attending the one or the other party, or their neutrality by going to both. I am informed, and I believe correctly informed, that there were no less than two councils of ministers on the important question, and that the result was, that it was finally resolved, at the instance of M. Guizot (who intimated that he would consider any decision to the contrary a hint to him to retire from the cabinet), that not one of the members of the Government should attend. Certain it is that orders were issued that no person in Government employment should attend the entertainment at the British embassy, and in point of fact not one single member of the Cabinet nor a Government *employé*, civil or military, of any kind, with the exception of Count Walewski, who has recently been appointed envoy extraordinary to settle the affairs of the Plate, did attend. This is not all. The King issued orders to aides-de-camp and the other persons holding situations at the court, that they were

expected to absent themselves. His Majesty's resolution in this respect is said to have been adopted at the suggestion of the Cabinet." There were about 1,500 guests, including Count Molé, Count Montalbert, the Prince de la Moskowa, and M. Thiers. Lord Cowley, the late ambassador to Paris, and his family still reside there, and have become partisans of M. Guizot against the present English representative of the British Government.

GERMAN "CONSTITUTIONS."—A Frankfort journal says that, now that Prussia possesses a constitution, there are only four states out of the thirty-eight, of which Germany consists, that are without constitutions. These four are—Austria, Oldenburg, Schwartzburg-Sonderhausen, and Hesse-Homburg. Holstein, however, adds the journal, might be added, seeing that it has only provincial states like Austria.

THE KING OF SWEDEN has appointed a commission to inquire into the best means for reducing the rates of postage, and for multiplying the mails not only within Sweden and Norway, but also between the two countries and the rest of Europe.

SLAVERY IN PERU.—Slavery is approaching its extinction in Peru. The 152nd article of the constitution declares that no one shall be born a slave in the Republic, and extends the provision back to 1820. Consequently, for the last twenty-six years all have been born free. The constitution also declares, that every slave imported from other countries shall be free the moment he touches the soil of Peru; and it deprives of citizenship any one who shall engage in this traffic. This provision of the constitution has been enforced with more energy, perhaps, than any other. No aspirant or usurper has dared to trample on it.—*Anti-slavery Reporter*.

CHRISTIANITY IN JERUSALEM.—A letter from Jerusalem says:—"The Jews in this city are greatly alarmed at the progress of Christianity, which is secretly spreading amongst them, almost from house to house; they therefore use all the means in their power to stop it. Secret tribunals are formed, whose business it is to search after those who read Christian books, or who visit our houses. Not satisfied with that, they have recently issued two communications against the missionaries, against the hospital, and against all who are in connexion with us."—*Newcastle Advertiser*.

MR. G. W. CONDER, of High Wycombe, Bucks, has accepted the invitation of the Independent church at Ryde, Isle of Wight, to become its pastor, and will commence his labours on the first Sabbath in March. Mr. Conder succeeds the late lamented Mr. T. S. Guyer.

FIRE AT WYCLIFFE CHAPEL.—At the close of the service on Friday evening, a fire broke out in the roofing of this place of worship, and must very speedily have consumed the whole building, had not a large portion of the congregation been on the spot, ready to render those services which, before the arrival of the engines, were effectual in extinguishing the flames. It is supposed that the fire originated in the heat of the Bude light igniting the rafters of the ceiling. The usual services were not held on Sunday.

DESTITUTION IN THE METROPOLIS.—Upwards of 50,000 persons are now inmates of the London workhouses; 60,000 are receiving out-door relief; and from 1,400 to 2,000 lightly sheltered in the refuges for the homeless.—*Globe*.

MR. WALTER, of the *Times*, who had been solicited to become a candidate for the representation of Reading, has announced his intention of retiring altogether from public life. He is now dangerously ill at his seat at Bearwood, Berks.

ENDOWMENT OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CLERGY.—At a public meeting lately held at Exeter, Mr. Divett, M.P. for the city, spoke as follows, on this subject:—"He had very great doubt whether such a measure would be possible, because the probability was, it would not reconcile the people of Ireland to the Protestant Church. It was a great misfortune that that Church ever existed in Ireland, and it might have to be removed, although he would not say that yet, but it would be a great object gained to take any measure conducive to religious peace in Ireland; and if he believed that the endowment of the Catholic priests would lead to that peace in Ireland and satisfy them, he for one would vote for it without hesitation [cheers], though at the same time he had very great doubt whether it would ever be proposed or carried."

PUBLIC CEMETERY.—We are enabled to state, on the authority of a letter received by a gentleman in this city, from a member of her Majesty's Government, that a General Cemetery Bill will be brought into Parliament this session, and we are fully assured that the Health of Towns Bill will be laid before the House of Commons immediately after the Irish measures are disposed of.—*Oxford Chronicle*.

ILLNESS OF MR. DANIEL O'CONNELL.—Mr. O'Connell's indisposition is said to arise from an affection of the heart, which his friends fear is likely to prove fatal, and it appears that he has some such presentiment himself, for his constant exclamation, after conversation with any of his old intimates, is, "Pray for me, pray for me." The *Freeman's Journal* contains the following:—"By special command of his Grace Archbishop Murray, the Reverend Dr. Miley left for London, this morning, upon business of extreme urgency and importance." Mr. O'Connell intends, if possible, to leave for Ireland immediately.

SURVEYING EXPEDITION TO THE COAST OF AFRICA.—Arrangements are in progress for fitting out the *Minx* and *Teazer* steam-vessels, of 100-horse power each, and light draught of water, and two other steam-vessels, the *Rifeman* and *Sharpshooter*, of 200-horse power each, one of each class built of wood and the others of iron, and all fitted with screw-propellers, for the purpose of proceeding to the Bight of Benin, on the west coast of Africa, to survey the extensive Lake Lagoon, at the mouths of the Niger or Nun river, as it is named by the natives of that part of the coast.—*Correspondent of the Morning Post*.

IRELAND.

DREADFUL STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

In a letter from Commander Caffin, of H.M. steamer the *Scourge*, which is now off the coast of Schull, with a cargo of ninety tons of meal, biscuit, &c., to distribute amongst the starving peasantry, a frightful picture is drawn of the state of the village of Schull, which he has recently visited. The commander was accompanied by Dr. Traill, rector of the parish. He says—

In every house that I entered were to be found the dead or dying: in particularizing two or three, they may be taken as the picture of the whole—there was no picking or choosing, but we took them just as they came. The first which I shall mention was a cabin rather above the ordinary ones in appearance and comfort; in it were three young women, and one young man and three children, all crouched over a fire—pictures of misery. Dr. Traill asked after the father, upon which one of the girls opened a door leading into another cabin, and there were the father and mother in bed—the father the most wretched picture of starvation possible to conceive, a skeleton with life, his power of speech gone—the mother but little better; her cries for mercy and food were heart-rending. It was sheer destitution which had brought them to this; they had been well to do in the world, with their cow, and few sheep, and potato ground; their crops failed, and their cattle were stolen, although, anticipating this, they had taken their cow and sheep into the cabin with them every night, but they were stolen in the day-time. The son had worked on the road, and earned his 8d. per day; but this could not keep the family, and he, from work and insufficiency of food, is laid up, and will soon be as bad as his father. They had nothing to eat in the house, and I could see no hope for any one of them. In another cabin we went into, a mother and her daughter were there; the daughter emaciated and lying against the wall, the mother naked upon some straw on the ground, with a rug over her, a most distressing object of misery. She writhed about, and bared her limbs, in order to show us her state of exhaustion. She had wasted away until nothing but the skin covered the bones. She cannot have survived to this time. Another that I entered had, indeed, the appearance of wretchedness without, but its inside was misery! Dr. Traill, on putting his head inside the hole which answered for a door, said "Well, Phillis, how is your mother to-day?" he having been with her the day before, was replied, "Oh, sir, is it you? Mother is dead." And there, fearful reality, was the daughter, a skeleton herself, crouched and crying over the lifeless body of her mother, which was on the floor, cramped as she had died, with her rags and her cloak about her, by the side of a few embers of peat. In the next cabin were three young children belonging to the daughter, whose husband had run away from her, all pictures of death. The poor creature said she did not know what to do with the corpse; she had no means of getting it removed, and she was too exhausted to remove it herself. This cabin was about three miles from the rectory. In another cabin, the door of which was stopped with dung, was a poor woman whom we had taken by surprise, as she roused up evidently much astonished; she burst into tears upon seeing the doctor, and said she had not been enabled to sleep since the corpse of the woman had lain in her bed—this was a poor creature who was passing this miserable cabin, and asked the old woman to allow her to rest herself for a few moments, when she had lain down, but never rose up again; she died in an hour or so from sheer exhaustion. The body had remained in this hole, six feet square, with the poor old woman, for four days; she could not get anybody to remove it. . . . All that I have stated above I have seen with mine own eyes, and can vouch for the truth of; and I feel I cannot convey by words the impression left on my mind of this awful state of things. I could tell you also of that which I could vouch for the truth of, but which I did not see myself, such as bodies half eaten by the rats; of two dogs, last Wednesday, being shot by Mr. O'Callaghan, whilst tearing a body to pieces; of his mother-in-law stopping a woman, and asking her what she had on her back, and being replied, it was her son, telling her she would smother it, but the poor emaciated woman said it was dead already, and she was going to dig a hole in the churchyard for it.

DUBLIN, FEBRUARY 21.—The measures of relief have, it is to be hoped, produced some alleviation of the destitution generally throughout the country. At least, the last reports from Limerick, Tipperary, and some other southern counties, are somewhat less alarming than they have been for two months past. There is, no doubt, dreadful destitution still prevailing all through the country; but I would fain hope, that the ravages of famine have received a check in those counties to which I refer. There are two counties, however—Cork in the south, and Mayo in the west—in which famine is still decimating the population; and fever, after sweeping off thousands, continues to spread, and to excite the deepest alarm lest it should extend to the upper classes.

"THE IRISH PARTY" are very assiduous in their meetings and strictures on the Irish measures of Government. They, however, exclude reporters from the public press, but condescend to send their own reports of their proceedings to the daily papers. From these accounts we learn that they held meetings on Friday and Saturday, at their new chambers, King-street, St. James's. On the first occasion, the Marquis of Westmeath presided. Among the Irish noblemen and members of the lower House present were the Earl of Mountcashell, Lord Montague, the Marquis of Sligo, Lord Bernard, Mr. W. Smith O'Brien, Mr. F. Shaw, Mr. Bernal Osborne, Mr. Fitz-tephen French, Mr. G. A. Hamilton, Mr. Ormsby Gore, Mr. R. A. Fitzgerald, Mr. Lefroy, Mr. Gregory, Mr. H. Grattan, Mr. T. B. Martin, Mr. Grogan, Mr. J. R. Godley. The special object of the meeting on Friday was to consider the provisions of the important bill recently introduced into the House of Commons by Lord John Russell, to facilitate the improvement of landed property in Ireland by the owners, and to afford employment to the labouring classes. After a vast deal of conference and consultation, it was agreed that several suggested amendments should be brought under the consideration of the Legislature. Amongst other amendments, was one for making the loan to Irish landlords £2,000,000 instead of £1,500,000! On Saturday, some clauses of the proposed Poor Relief (Ireland) Bill were again discussed, and Mr. Smith O'Brien announced that he should move several amendments to the bill in committee.

WHITEFIELD CHAPEL, LONG-ACRE.—On Thursday, the 11th instant, Mr. J. Elrick, M.A., late of Sudbury, was publicly recognized as pastor of the Congregational church assembling in Whitefield chapel, Long-acre. The opening devotional services were conducted by Mr. J. C. Harrison, of Park chapel, Camden-town. Dr. Leif-child delivered the introductory discourse, on the nature and constitution of a Christian church. The usual questions to the church and minister were put by Mr. Samuel Martin, of Westminster chapel; the recognition prayer was then offered by Mr. Thomas Lewis, of Islington; and an impressive charge was addressed to the minister by Mr. Thomas Adkins, of Southampton. Messrs. J. A. Miller, of New-court chapel; J. M. Richardson, of Tottenham-court chapel; John Kennedy, M.A., of Stepney; J. Macrea, of Walthamstow, and G. Rose, of Bermondsey, also took part in the devotional service. The ministers, and a respectable company, dined together at the Freemasons' Tavern, and afterwards joined a more numerous tea-party in the school-room belonging to the chapel, when addresses were delivered, congratulating the minister and his friends, and throwing out some practical suggestions, by Dr. Morison, Dr. Carlile, and Mr. Josiah Conder. The evening service was opened by Mr. J. A. Miller; Dr. Morison then delivered a sermon to the church and congregation; and Dr. Legge, from China, closed the service. The circumstances under which Mr. Elrick enters upon his pastoral labours are, as respects the unanimity of the church, and the important sphere of usefulness, very encouraging.

POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, February 24th.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

In the House of Lords, last night, the Destitute Persons (Ireland) Bill, after certain amendments had been made to it, was read a third time, and passed.

The royal assent was then given, by commission, to the Distilling from Sugar Bill, the Brewing from Sugar Bill, and other bills, which had, within a few days past, gone through their various stages in the two Houses of Parliament.

In the House of Commons, at the time of private business, Mr. HUME moved for a select committee to continue the inquiry into the private business of the House, the expenses attending the obtaining of all private bills, including all the expenses of the opponents as well as of the promoters of bills, and the taxing of the expenses thereto. The motion was carried, and the committee named in the paper was appointed.

Mr. ELLICE moved that all railway bills in the present session be referred to the railway commissioners, for their report to the House upon certain points, previously to such bills being considered in committees of the House. After a few words from Mr. HUDSON, Sir R. INGLIS, and Lord JOHN RUSSELL, the motion was agreed to.

REPEAL OF THE RATE-PAYING CLAUSES OF THE REFORM BILL.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE then brought forward his motion for leave "to bring in a bill to repeal so much of an act, passed in the reign of William IV., entitled, 'An Act to amend the Representation of the People in England and Wales,' as makes the right to registration in cities and boroughs conditional on the payment of poor-rates and assessed taxes."

He said, that he was ready to lay it at once upon the table, without remark, if Lord John Russell would allow that the principle of it—which was the extension of the franchise in cities and boroughs—was a good one; but his lordship declining to give this pledge, Mr. Duncombe observed, that there was only one clause in his bill, and that clause repealed the rate-paying clause of the Reform Act. It was, therefore, better that the matter should be fought out at once. He looked upon this rate-paying clause as one of the greatest blots of the Reform Act, and as a serious grievance to the electors of cities and boroughs. It was unconstitutional in its principle, and had defeated in its results the object for which Lord John Russell introduced the Reform Act. Lord John Russell observed, in introducing that measure, that he intended to call into existence 500,000 new electors, and that of that number 95,000 would be in the metropolitan districts. Now in the five new metropolitan boroughs the electors at present on the register were not more than 45,000 in number, and one-sixth of that number were duplicates. Westminster, Southwark, and the city of London were now worse off than before the Reform Act; for the constituency of all those three places had been diminished by the operation of the clause which he now sought to repeal. The same result had taken place in other cities and boroughs, and Radicals and Conservatives had both complained of the injury which they had sustained in consequence. Another reason for repealing this obnoxious clause was, that it placed too much power in the hands of parochial officers, and led to great favouritism and bribery. Fourteen parishes in the metropolis had refused to put any man on the register unless he claimed to be both rated and registered; and what rendered that determination most dangerous was a recent decision of the Court of Common Pleas, that a ter very fresh rate a new claim was necessary to be made by the elector. In many parishes landlords compounded for the rates of their tenants, and in all, the parochial officers were anxious to get the landlords to do so; but the result of that proceeding was the disfranchisement of the tenants. Those who represented counties did not feel this grievance, for their constituents had not to prove the payment of either rent, rates, or taxes. Why was such a distinction drawn between the electors of counties and those of cities and boroughs? He read an extract from the *Times* newspaper in 1834, condemning, in the strongest terms, the policy of the Reform Act in this respect. He hoped that hon. members would read and digest that article, for it was a much better speech than any which he could make upon the subject. Many of her Majesty's Ministers had voted in favour of his present proposition when they were in opposition; and he trusted that they would give him their support now that they were in office. He did not see why this should not be left an open question in the Government, for it was not a question of a principle, but of degree; and that was the very reason why the Factory Bill was left an open question.

Lord J. RUSSELL contended that Mr. Duncombe was quite mistaken in supposing that the preliminary pay-

ment of rates was a novel qualification in the exercise of the franchise in cities and boroughs.

He contended that the Reform Act had extended in a very great degree the right of voting in this country. Even Mr. DUNCOMBE admitted that it had called 45,000 electors into existence in the metropolitan boroughs; and great numbers had been created in Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, and many other large boroughs, which previously had no representation. The Government of that day had proposed that a £10 house should be the basis of the franchise, and, in order to have a test similar to that in the old scot and lot system, had proposed that the poor-rates and assessed taxes should be paid as a concurrent qualification. He, therefore, conceived that the provision which Mr. Duncombe sought to repeal was a wise and constitutional provision, in conformity with the ancient law of the land. It ascertained that the franchise was given to a person of some property; and, if the party were incapable of paying his rates, it was only fitting that he should forgo his vote. He thought the bill of Mr. Duncombe utterly indefensible in principle, and a great innovation on the constitution, and, as such, he should meet it with the most decided opposition.

An animated discussion, or, rather, conversation—for the talk was nearly all on one side—then took place. Mr. GIBBORNE, Sir DE LACY EVANS, Mr. HUME, Sir B. HALL, Mr. T. D'EYNCOURT, Mr. WAKLEY, Captain PEACHELL, Sir C. NAPIER, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mr. B. ESCOTT supported the motion; Mr. P. HOWARD, Sir G. GREY, and Lord G. BENTINCK opposed it. The opinion in its favour was strong and decided. Sir DE LACY EVANS said that, in the metropolis alone, upwards of 100,000 properly qualified persons, many of them inhabiting, not £10 houses, but £40 and £50 houses, are deprived of their right to vote by the clogs and obstructions which this clause threw in their way. He thought that that fact alone was sufficient to induce the House to consent to the introduction of the bill. Capt. PEACHELL feared that "finality" was again to be the order of the day. Mr. WILLIAMS had always supported the noble lord now at the head of the Government, but the noble lord's present backwardness in reform would have induced him, but for the recollection of the good which the noble lord had done in former days, no longer to support him.

Sir G. GREY, in opposing the bill, observed that the actual results of the Reform Act had been commensurate with the expectations held out by its promoters. What was sought to be effected by the bill now before the House could be equally attained by a bill similar to that which was introduced last year by the member for Westminster, for the extension of the time for the payment of the rates.

The House divided, and the numbers were—
For the motion to introduce the bill... 38
Against it... 58
Majority against motion... 20

JUVENILE OFFENDERS.—Sir JOHN PAKINGTON obtained leave to bring in a bill for the more speedy trial and punishment of juvenile offenders. The object of the bill was to substitute, in certain cases, a summary jurisdiction, in lieu of the right of trial by jury, which would do away with imprisonment before trial, in cases in which such imprisonment was far more than commensurate with the offence committed.

LAW OF MORTMAIN.—Lord JOHN MANNERS obtained leave to bring in a bill to alter and amend the laws relating to the disposition of property for pious and charitable purposes. The principal features of the bill were, that it proposed that all wills containing bequests for pious or charitable purposes should be signed for three months before the death of the testator; and also that, when such bequests were made, the property should not go as land to the charities, but should be sold, and the proceeds handed over to them. Sir R. INGLIS would not divide the House upon the motion, but trusted that it would reject the bill.

Shortly after, the House was counted out.

At an earlier part of the evening several notices of motions were given:—by Mr. CRAWFORD, to-morrow, for a bill to secure the rights of tenants in Ireland; by Mr. EWART, to propose the total repeal of death punishments, on Tuesday, March 9.

In reply to a question from Mr. COLLETT, Lord JOHN RUSSELL announced the proposed increase of bishops in the manner already made public. A bill to sanction the appointments is shortly to be introduced.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

GENERAL NARVAEZ' health is in a declining state; his constitution is broken up, and he is recommended to try the effect of a more genial climate than that of Madrid.—*Times*.

THE GUIZOT AND NORMANBY DISPUTE is (says the *Times* correspondent) on the high road to oblivion. The King of the Belgians was expected to arrive at Paris on Monday, with the intention of proceeding to England to endeavour to reconcile the two Courts. The rise in the prices of food, and continued riots, comprise the principal intelligence from the departments. The editor of the *National* has been tried for sedition, and acquitted.

The *Courier de l'Ain* states that butcher's meat has become so dear at Schaffhausen, in Switzerland, that permission has been granted by the authorities to expose for sale the flesh of horses, asses, and mules.

MR. COBDEN IN ITALY.—Letters from Rome, of the 11th inst., mention that a grand banquet was given on the preceding day to Mr. Cobden, by the Chamber of Commerce of that capital. The Marquis Potenziani, the president, and the Marquis Dragonetti, severally addressed Mr. Cobden, whose reply was received with enthusiastic applause.

IRELAND.—Famine and pestilence are sweeping off the population in several of the western and southern counties. The reports received this day are still more horrible than any that have yet appeared. In the extent of mortality Sligo now appears to surpass any other county, and it is asserted that the police, finding the deaths from starvation so numerous, refuse to send for the coroners, probably because it would be physically impossible for those functionaries to hold

inquests in so many cases and in different localities. And yet, in this very county of Sligo, the local journal, the *Sligo Champion*, makes a most startling exposure of an infamous system of jobbing on the public works by landlords, for the employment, it is alleged, of their relations and dependants at high salaries, to the exclusion of the destitute and famishing labourers. The Constabulary office in Dublin return the deaths from starvation at FIFTY THOUSAND!

THE REPEAL ASSOCIATION met on Monday, when Mr. Steele contradicted the report of Mr. O'Connell's illness. There was no letter from the Liberator, however. Rent for the week, £43 2s. 2d.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH DISCUSSION AT LIVERPOOL.—It will, probably, be in the recollection of our readers that a deputation from the Executive Committee of the British Anti-state church Association visited this town recently to explain the objects and to form a committee for furthering them in this locality. On that occasion Edward Miall, Esq., editor of the *Nonconformist*, and one of the deputation, intimated his willingness to meet Mr. McNeile, or any of his friends, in public, to discuss the question, whether the support of Christian churches and worship by the compulsory or voluntary system was most in accordance with the revealed will of Christ. It will be seen from our advertising columns that the Rev. Joseph Baylee, of Birkenhead, has accepted the challenge on behalf of the Liverpool Protestant and Reformation Society, and that the discussion is to come off next Friday evening. The circumstance is exciting considerable interest.—*Liverpool Albion*. [The following is the major portion of the advertisement inserted in the Liverpool papers:—

"A public discussion will take place on Friday evening next, the 26th instant, at the Concert-hall, Lord Nelson-street, between Edward Miall, Esq., of London, and the Rev. Joseph Baylee, of Birkenhead, upon the following question:—'Can the State-Church principle for the maintenance of Christian institutions be justified by the Word of God? and is the compulsory or voluntary system in support of Christian churches and worship most in accordance with the revealed mind of Christ?' Chair to be taken at half-past six o'clock. Admission by ticket only. Body, 3d.; gallery, 6d.; reserved seats, 1s.'"]

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.—Dr. Cox will lecture, in connexion with this Society, to-morrow evening (Thursday), at seven o'clock, at Tottenham-court-road Chapel. Subject:—"The Antagonism of Establishments of Religion to Scriptural Christianity." And Mr. Burnet, on Wednesday evening next, at the same hour, at the Tabernacle (Dr. Campbell's). Subject:—"Church Property National Property."—See *Advertisements*.

CHANCELLORSHIP OF CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.—The great event that now agitates aristocratic society is the contest for this office, vacant by the death of the Duke of Northumberland. Scarcely was the breath out of the body of the late peer, when Earl Powis was announced as a candidate for the vacant post, and a large and numerous committee have been ever since working on his behalf. A deputation from another large section of members of the University waited upon Prince Albert, who has declined to become a candidate unless chosen unanimously. Some of the tuft-hunting supporters of his Royal Highness, headed by Professor Whewell, Master of Trinity College, appear determined to take no refusal. A contest, therefore, which promises to be a severe one, is likely to ensue. The polling commences to-morrow, and terminates on Saturday. The contest has already assumed somewhat of a political complexion. Earl Powis's supporters have raised the old stale cry, "The Church is in danger"—fearing, from the fact that many members of the Government are on Prince Albert's committee, that the election will decide the question of the proposed inquiry into the two universities. They are, therefore, scouring the country for clergymen to fight for their vested monopoly. One curious result of Prince Albert's election would be that he would have to congratulate himself annually, in due form, on the birth of a prince or princess!!

THE PRICE OF GRAIN AND FOREIGN SUPPLIES.—Anxiety has been created within the last ten days by the rapid and steady advance in the price of wheat. The highest price quoted on Monday week, in town, was 78s.; the average of the six weeks was 70s. 7d. We observe that at Bristol the highest price quoted, on Thursday, is 82s.; and the average must now be about 71s. The *Globe*, however, sets to work, with much ability, to show that the prospect is not so very bad. The rigour of winter is past; stocks in the farmers' hands are known to have accumulated, in the hope of high prices; the navigation in America will soon be opened; at the season when prices are usually highest—that is, in the spring and early summer—large supplies may be looked for: on all these grounds, it seems probable that prices have touched their highest point, and there will be a reaction. On Monday the price of wheat in Mark Lane declined 4s. or 5s. The high price of the previous week is attributed to the farmers not being able to bring their corn to market during the snow-storm.

VISCOUNT HARDINGE, the present Governor-General of India, will arrive in England the beginning of next year.—*United Service Gazette*.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour.
English....	2280	946	1310			1330
Scotch.....						
Irish.....			790			
Foreign....	180	2400	590			

No alteration in price.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.
For Eight Lines and under 5s. 0d.
For every additional Two Lines 6d.
Half a Column. . . £1 | Column. £2
* All communications to the Editor should be addressed to the office, 3, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- "Justitia," "A Friend of the Slave," and "A. V. B.," too long for our columns, in the present press of public business.
"E. W." We do not admire the style nor the spirit in which his paper is written.
"A Lover of Consistency." Tithes are not private but public property. No individual can be said to pay to the Church what, if that Church were to be destroyed tomorrow, would not fairly be his.
"Justitia." Christianity, in the legal sense, means the Church of England.
"A Subscriber" (A. C., Baker-street, Lloyd-square, London) would be glad to be supplied with the following numbers of the *Nonconformist*, to complete his set, viz.: Nos. 12 and 23, vol. i.; 49, vol. ii.; 148, 157, 158, 163, 181, vol. iv.; 207, 217, 220, 227, 236, 241, 242, 245, vol. v.; 12, vol. vi., in exchange for any of these:—No. 37, vol. i.; 51, vol. ii.; 131, 132, 133, 137, 138, 139, 142, 143, 144, 161, 162, 164, 166, 168, and title, &c., vol. iii.; 184, 195, 196, 197, 199, 200, 201, vol. iv.; 203, 215, 226, 236, 250, vol. v.; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 22, 23, 27, 32, 33, 34, 48, 51, vol. vi.

By an error of the printer, in our last number, an acknowledgment of the receipt of £5, from friends at Halifax, was placed to the account of the Irish Evangelical Society, instead of to the fund for circulating Mr. Baines's letters.

It would greatly promote our convenience if all communications to the editor or publisher were addressed exclusively to the office, 3, Whitefriars, Fleet-street.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24, 1847.

SUMMARY.

WE shall commence the summary of the week with a short reference to the proceedings consequent upon the announcement of the intentions of Government in regard to national education. There is good reason to believe that no section of the Dissenting community will be deceived by the specious plausibility of the proposed plan; and, if any are yet in doubt, we recommend to their perusal Mr. Edward Baines's letter to Lord Lansdowne, now published in a separate shape, and a pamphlet by Mr. J. M. Hare, entitled "An Analysis and Exposure of the New Government Scheme of Education, showing its precise Nature, its Objectionable Character, and its Mischievous Tendencies." Various bodies threaten a vigorous opposition to the Government proposals. At Leeds, an important meeting of the friends of voluntary education resident in the West Riding of Yorkshire, has been held, at which resolutions of the most decided character were passed, and preliminary steps taken to offer a determined resistance to the measure. The Congregational Board of Education have summoned a meeting of their constituents for to-morrow. The Deputies of the Three Denominations of Dissenters hold a special meeting this afternoon. The Wesleyans are beginning to take the alarm, and will, probably, come to some definite resolution upon the subject before the lapse of any lengthened period. We trust that the friends of voluntary education throughout the country will follow the example set them by the Leeds meeting, by adhering steadfastly to the principle of anti-state education; and that, within this limit, they will aim at unity and promptitude of action, and go boldly for the abolition of the Educational Committee of the Privy Council. It is clear that our only safety consists in extirpating the very root of the evil.

The principal topic of the week, coming under the head of Parliamentary intelligence, is the financial statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which was made to the House of Commons by the right hon. gentleman on Monday night, although suffering under considerable indisposition. The total revenue, ordinary and extraordinary, of the coming year, he estimated at £52,515,000; the total expenditure at £51,756,077, leaving a surplus of £758,923. From this surplus, however, are to be deducted £288,000 interest of the loan which he proposes for Ireland to the extent of £8,000,000, and £142,000 interest on the amount of Exchequer Bills now floating; which will leave a nett surplus of £336,923. The amount spent in Ireland up to the present time he stated to be £2,400,000, and the whole amount which he will require, including that sum, to complete the year from August 1846 to August 1847, is £10,000,000. The state of the revenue at the present moment is highly flourishing. The excess of income over the expenditure for the year ending the 5th of January last, was no less than £2,846,000; and the surplus of the financial year ending the 5th of April will be considerably higher, as the revenue for the current quarter, for the first six weeks, already exhibits an increase upon the corresponding period of last year of £500,000. There is to be no remission of taxes, but we are to have an increase in the expense of all departments of Government service to a considerable amount. We have thrown together a few observations on the budget in another column.

The Ten Hours Bill obtained, on Wednesday last, a second reading by a large majority. The insatiation of Lord John Russell in consenting to the principle of this measure, appears to us to indicate that his tenure of power will be neither long nor beneficial.

Since, however, Parliament is determined to legislate on the subject, we earnestly trust it will be prevailed upon to do so effectually. Less ultimate mischief will accrue from the immediate adoption of ten hours, as the limitation of factory labour, than from a paltry compromise. Let the system be fairly tried—let the operatives test its power for good or for evil, so that the results may be seen and felt as speedily as possible. If then the fears of those who oppose the measure prove to be groundless, the operatives will derive the full advantage of the boon. If, on the other hand they shall be realized, all parties will come more quickly to their senses, and will demand the abolition of restrictions upon labour.

The only other business needing notice with which the Commons have occupied themselves, is the Indemnity Bill, rendering valid the acts of the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland previously to the opening of Parliament; and a short but significant conversation on the scheme of Government for promoting the immigration of negroes from the western coast of Africa to the West Indies, upon which we have remarked at large in another place.

The doings of the Lords may be soon summed up. A speech by Lord Brougham on the treatment of juvenile offenders, containing some lively descriptions, and a few valuable suggestions; a little bickering, got up by Lord Aberdeen, on the policy of Ministers in regard to Portugal—a subject introduced by Lord Beaumont, with a view to elicit information; and the second reading of the Brewing from Sugar Bill, after a brief but animated debate, in which Lord Stanley's vigorous opposition was met and defeated by Earl Grey,—comprise the sum total of proceedings in the House of Peers, so far, at least, as they are worthy of special mention.

The same dismal accounts from Ireland—increasing destitution, fever, and death, and a cry for increasing assistance in funds and food. 60,000 labourers, representing three million of the population, are now employed at the public cost by the Board of Works, and yet so anomalous is the state of society in Ireland, that the peasantry of Mayo have organized a secret and wide-spread confederation to abandon altogether the tillage of the soil. The truth is becoming more and more apparent, that Ireland can only be rescued from destruction by giving up the existing race of land-proprietors to the fate which they have brought upon themselves. The Roman Catholic clergy are beginning to agitate for an effective poor-law; and a deputation from that body, who waited upon Lord John Russell a few days since, fairly warned his lordship not to regard the "Irish party" as possessing any sympathies in common with the Irish people. Poor O'Connell, it is rumoured, broken down in health and spirits, is ordered by his physicians to return home, probably to die. What a moral do the closing scenes of that man's life suggest to the thoughtful mind! and how seemingly appropriate the ordination, that when Ireland requires real statesmanship to redeem her from death, the Liberator should pass off the stage.

THE WHIG MIND-TRAP.

THE Ministerial plan of Education—perhaps we ought rather to say, the plan palmed off upon the Committee of Privy Council by ecclesiastical craft—bids fair to raise some stir in the world. The trick of it is seen through—and if there be one thing more than another which excites an Englishman's bile, it is the discovery of an attempt to impose upon his simplicity. There are some things which men can bear with tolerable equanimity, however opposed to their own interest. When overwhelming force comes down upon their inheritance, and, in virtue of superior might, seizes upon, and retains it, the disposition is not uncommon to make the best of misfortune, and by patient endurance to deprive it of its venom. But to witness what they prize flched away from them under false pretences—bought clean out of their hands with their own money—wasted away before their eyes by a process in which they are compelled to take a part—transferred piecemeal to others who possess no claim to it, and who will use for opposition what they have gained by stealth—this is what men cannot submit to, without first signing and sealing away all pretensions to manhood. "Ruin our schools," the Dissenters may well exclaim—"ruin all free and independent education, if so it must be, by sheer despotism! We will strain every nerve to prevent it, and, if we fail in the struggle, will comfort ourselves with having done our duty. But seek not your infamous ends by cajolery, craft, and corruption! Treat us not as idiots without sense to discern, or as knaves without principle to uphold! Add not insult to treachery! Sharpen not your knife with that smirking air of kindness! We are at your mercy. Stab, if you will, but stab as men, who do what they mean, and mean what they say."

The most bitterly offensive feature of the Educational scheme of the Whigs is its insidiousness. It is an ingeniously-constructed trap, presenting free ingress, tempting baits, concealed springs, and a splendid cage. It is obviously framed with a view to catch Dissenters. Its main purpose is screened behind all sorts of equitable-looking provisions. Every department of it contains snares;—snares for subscribers—snares for committees of management—snares for schoolmasters—snares for parents—snares for scholars. Covertly, and in disguise, it introduces some of the most vicious principles of government against which British politicians have been wont to protest—centralization and irresponsibility, favouritism

in the distribution of State resources—the subsidizing of all religious sects—the breaking down, in all classes, of the spirit of self-reliance. And it is put forward as a very modest, unpretending, trivial affair—so insignificant as not to require Parliamentary discussion—so perfectly a matter of routine and detail that to embody it in a bill would be superfluous labour. Look at it, and what is its outward aspect? A wee toy of a benevolent committee. What is it when searchingly examined? A poisoned weapon for destroying intellectual manhood.

There are, we observe with surprise and regret, journalists holding liberal opinions, and professing to advocate religious liberty, who, blinded by their overweening confidence in the talismanic and transmuting power of a knowledge of the alphabet, are willing to accept even this deceptive measure rather than allow things to remain as they are. "Teach the people to read," say they, "and you put into their hands the most powerful antidote to slavery. Educate them, and you may safely leave both priests and placemen to do their worst!" Indeed! Is the mere knowledge of letters, then, so potent, in counteracting those early influences which go to the formation of character, and in eradicating prejudices the seeds of which are sown in childhood? Do these writers believe what they say? Can they, and yet lay claim to the slightest observation and experience? Did Oxford ever yet send out a stream of intelligent liberalism? Do the men brought up under the fostering care of that semi-monastic and priest-governed university, ordinarily rise above the level of intellectual or moral life which they derived from their *alma mater*, or burst the bands of bigotry which were there twined about their souls? Preposterous! Society knows better. Hence all the maxims, common in every language, which trace the habits of the man to the education of the child. These theorists might, with equal plausibility, plead for the drilling and arming of all citizens, on the ground that you thereby put into their hands the best defence against tyranny. How is it, then, that our soldiers are the most hopelessly enslaved class in the empire? Undermine a free spirit of inquiry, and what purpose will be served by the mere ability to read?

The truth is, that it is obviously impossible—and none know this better than the State clergy—to restrict the operations of the State pedagogue to the simple communication of the elements of knowledge. The men whose connexion with, and entire dependence upon, the Government of the day, must give them a vested interest in obstructing national progress, will have under training, when the mind is most plastic, the youth who in a few years will constitute the staple of our imperial population. The indirect influence which, guided by clerical inspectors, their position will enable them to exert—the slavish maxims they may instil—the habits of subservience they may cultivate—the narrow, meagre, shrivelled forms of truth they may uphold as the ultimate standards of morality, may be made to tell more powerfully for evil than any correct knowledge they may communicate will operate for good. When will our educational theorists learn, that reading and writing, with a smattering of natural science, is not education? When will they recognize the important fact, that men have hearts as well as heads? and that hearts are not to be fashioned by a few scholastic formulas? That kind of regimental education in which the State is to act as fagelman, can only obtain intellectual order at the expense of intellectual freedom. Granted, that to give chase to ignorance is of incalculable importance to the well-being of the people; it is not, therefore, by any means clear, that the people should invoke a rider and submit to a halter. There is no reason why we should thrust into the hands of the Church the knife by which it may cut the throat of our liberty.

THE BUDGET OF 1847.

PERHAPS, the best thing which can be said of the Whig budget, is that it is *out*, and that its mere publication will do much to calm down the excitement which vague apprehensions are apt to beget. We know the worst. We have emerged from the region of uncertainty. We have got the *data* whereupon to base our plans and calculations for the future. Business will revert to its ordinary channels. Buyers and sellers will accommodate themselves to the state of things as settled by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Thus far, the gain is unquestionable, and will, we trust, be speedily realized by the public.

And what is the burden of the Whig budget? The ordinary revenue in a condition of unexampled prosperity—a surplus income, on the year, of somewhere about £3,000,000. So much for the madness, as Lord Melbourne characterized it, of free-trade! All branches of the revenue increasing in productiveness—all the springs of industry rendered more elastic by the removal of restrictions! An encouraging hint this to a sagacious Chancellor of the Exchequer—a hint which ought not, even at this moment of national trial, to be thrown away. The Whigs, however, are too timid to venture upon experiments in the *right* direction—so that we are to have no remissions whatever. Such taxes as Sir Robert Peel left imposed upon the country will be retained without alteration—and, inasmuch as the ordinary income of the coming year is estimated at but a few hundred thousands above the ordinary expenditure, the Whigs, as if on purpose to reduce their margin, intend to increase the expenses by about £400,000. Army, navy, ordnance, and miscellaneous estimates—all enjoy their share of augmentation. For what

reason, we cannot conjecture, for Ministers had no reason to assign except the usual flourish about "the efficiency of the service."

But what becomes of the surplus? Surplus! Why, Ireland has swallowed up £2,000,000 of it already, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer will require £8,000,000 more to supply the drain which the destitution of Ireland has established. £10,000,000 in a single year, half advanced with some prospect of remote repayment, and half fairly given away without conditions, answers Mr. O'Connell's reiterated abuse of the rapacious Saxon. £10,000,000 this year, with but faint hopes of escape from a heavy disbursement on the same account next! Of course "necessity has no law," but we are mistaken if the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement, which produced so marked a sensation in the House, do not tell very stringently upon the permanent measures of legislation to be presently proposed for the regeneration of Ireland's social condition. Here and there the boldest and most out-spoken of the English members are beginning to interpret the silent thoughts of the rest in sentences which must forewarn the Irish squireens of their approaching fate. There are murmurs touching the policy—nay, the necessity—of selling up the bankrupt proprietors to the last acre. These are but the first faint flashes of the gathering storm. The country will ask, and will demand an intelligible answer, why Great Britain is compelled to feed the Irish population at so enormous an expense. It would seem that about £20,000,000 of our annual income are paid on the main articles of subsistence—chiefly, of course, by the labouring classes. Are their sufferings and privations to be enhanced, that Irish landlords may go free? This is a question which every day is driving on toward a settlement. £10,000,000 at one swoop will precipitate the coming change.

Ministers propose raising a loan of £8,000,000, at three and a half per cent., to meet the emergency—but they make no provision for its repayment. The evil day is deferred. We are spared at present increase of taxation—but we are forewarned that we may look for it hereafter. New fiscal burdens are not precisely the recommendations with which a Cabinet on sufferance can afford to go to a general election. So that the Whig budget amounts to this—"Things as they are" this year, with no remissions, increased expenses, and an addition to the debt of £8,000,000. The Chancellor of the Exchequer succeeded to admiration in making this clear to every member of the House. The difficulty, we apprehend, would have been to mystify it.

THE WEST INDIES.—IMMIGRATION AND COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

ON Friday night, the subject of the immigration of free labourers from the western coast of Africa, was the subject of a brief but significant conversation. Immigration from the East Indies is, it appears, found too costly an experiment for the plantocracy of the West. They have, therefore, induced Government, not simply to consent that a fresh, or, rather, a cheaper, supply of labour shall be obtained from the west coast of Africa, but to send out a steamer to carry the project into effect. The experiment is to have one year's trial, and, specious as it is in appearance, we can regard it in no other light than as a practical revival of the slave-trade. We have had abundant evidence of the means employed to kidnap the poor Coolies from their native land. How much worse will this system operate on the African shores! Will not the same measures be employed by the native chiefs for seizing upon the negroes, to supply the demand of the planter, as are notoriously resorted to for obtaining avowed slaves? The proposed scheme is totally uncalled for by the necessities of our colonies, flagrantly unjust to the Creole population, and calculated to prevent that spirit of enterprise and self-reliance, the absence of which is the great curse of the West India interest.

The revival of this pernicious system shows an amount of infatuation and selfishness on the part of the colonial proprietors, and of servility on the part of the Colonial Office, calling for the indignant remonstrance of the press and public at home. In Jamaica, Coolie immigration has received its deathblow at the hands of the local legislature. It is denounced by all parties. "Seven thousand immigrants," says our correspondent, "have been brought from different parts of the world, at a cost of £139,417 9s. 2d., and at last it is confessed, all to no purpose. The only object, as a planter lately declared, for which these immigrants were desired was, that every estate might be supplied with about thirty of them, with which, as they were bound by indentures, they could hold out for three months together against the negroes, until they brought them to their own terms." It should be recollected that the greater proportion of this immense expense is borne, not by the planters, but by the emancipated negroes. Their hard earnings are mulcted to inundate the labour-market and bring down their wages. In Trinidad the system has equally failed. "The colony," says the *Trinidad Spectator*, "is being rapidly beggared, if it be not already bankrupt, by uncalled-for, unjust, forced, and cruel immigration. . . . Is labour needed in our island? We answer fearlessly and indignantly—No. The available patches of the colony are more than supplied with labourers. We have made inquiry, and we know not a single estate, where the people are paid and rationally treated, that does not possess abundance of labour. To our certain knowledge, some estates have to refuse labour even when offered. It is becoming an absolute favour to get work on an estate that pays the wages promised, and

is managed by a principled and civil man. There are managers, and their name is Legion, that a dog would not serve, if he could run away. The British Government and people are illustriously humbugged by the *succharine lords of Trinidad*."

In British Guiana the planters themselves are tired and disgusted with immigration. "The difficulty with the pro-immigration party," says *Emery's Journal*, "is, how to get respectably out of the scrape. Having introduced some two thousands of heathens—two-thirds of them emaciated wretches that can scarcely drag their diseased bodies out of the way of a vehicle, the very sweepings of the dissolute East, the refuse of cholera, fever, and the gaols, the off-scouring of Calcutta and Madras—and having some few disposable thousands on the waters, the question is, what to do with them?" So unbearable has the whole system become, that the Creole population have made an unexpected stand against the arbitrary enactments of the Court of Policy. The latter, under the pretence of regulating the duties of employers and employed, have adopted an ordinance, aptly called "The monthly slave law"—a measure which reduces the labourer to the condition of a slave, gives power to the justices to stop wages, and to impose a fine of twenty-four dollars besides, for alleged "ill-behaviour, or any omission of duty." The negroes have, in consequence, resolved on a course of passive resistance. The year was commenced by a general cessation of labour on the east coast. The people, without any violence, have retired to their own freeholds, which will afford them the means of sustenance, until their oppressors find out their mistake. Such is the system—repudiated even by a large section of the sugar proprietors—to which Government proposes to give renewed encouragement by fresh importations of ostensibly free, but really coerced, negroes, from the slave-trade districts of Africa. We really think it is time the friends of humanity in Britain, who struck off the fetters of the slave, should arouse themselves to demand justice for the down-trodden labourer.

Government have, it seems, a further scheme on foot for promoting the welfare of the emancipated classes in the colonies, originating, it would appear, in the ardent zeal of the noble Secretary for the Colonies. It is neither more nor less than a plan of education—not full of insidious provisions like that propounded by the Marquis of Lansdowne, but undisguisedly based upon the compulsory principle. Its leading feature is as follows:—A fine is to be imposed, payable quarterly, and exceeding the cost of school education, on the parents of children, who do not send their children to school, which will assist in forming a fund for defraying the expenses of the system. This is truly worthy of France and Prussia, and, no doubt, comes from the same mint as the scheme about to be imposed upon this country. They are essentially different in their leading features, but both have the same ultimate tendency—to deliver over the youthful mind to the servile influence of the State and the clergy. The Whigs are making more haste than good speed in carrying out their system of centralization and Government interference.

THE GOVERNMENT EDUCATION SCHEME.

(From the *Leeds Mercury* of Saturday.)

Let the friends of freedom and of education reflect on the following points in the measure of the Committee of Council—

The enormous extension of Government patronage—88,000 new employes.

The prodigious expenditure of public money—£1,754,000 a-year.

The despotic power given to the Committee of Council.

The servile bondage into which all the schoolmasters, their pupil-teachers, and monitors, will be brought.

The effect of this on the principles and character of the rising generation.

The new religious Establishment formed in the country, as an appendage to the Church, and the new legislative sanction given to the teaching of the Church Catechism, &c.

The fearful amount of influence and patronage given to the Clergy.

The shameful injustice to Dissenters, in taxing them for a new religious Establishment.

The certain effect of the measure to destroy the schools of the Dissenters—not only their day schools, but even their Sunday-schools, and, of course, to weaken their congregations.

The introduction of the practice of bringing all forms of religious teaching under State-pay.

The monstrous violation of the Constitution, in effecting these mighty changes—as new in principle as in detail—by a mere Minute of the Committee of Council, and a vote of the House of Commons on the estimates, without an Act of Parliament.

To us it appears that an Englishman, looking at these features of enormous danger, injustice, and usurpation, must be a traitor to English liberty if he does not at once arouse himself, and give his utmost resistance to the measure.

Sir James Graham's bill was a mere trifle, compared with this exquisitely insidious and treacherous scheme. Bad as that was, it did not propose to hand over the schools of the whole country to an unconstitutional body like the Committee of Council on Education—a very Star Chamber, extending its own powers with incredible audacity—a body which now stoops to bribe (that is, to give the people back, at its pleasure, the money taken out of their own pockets), but which, in a year or two, will dictate and control at its own sovereign will.

The Whigs are infatuated. The present measure is just like their enormous act of unconstitutional folly in 1806, when they gave the Lord Chief Justice a seat in the Cabinet, and thus endangered the purity of the administration of justice. Lord Henry Petty was a member of that Administration; and he is now, forty years later, as Marquis of Lansdowne, enacting a similar outrage on the constitution.

Lord John Russell, when in Opposition, rendered a sep-

vice to Dissenters; but we take leave to say, that the connexion was quite as advantageous, politically speaking, to Lord John as it was to the Dissenters. He is now, as Premier, doing the most deadly injury to the Dissenters, and pandering to the unjust and arrogant pretensions of the Church. He may rely upon it, that the Dissenters will not support an Administration which does them such cruel wrong. He is destroying his own party, and will, ere long, fall between two stools.

The proposed expenditure on schools would exceed the whole of the Queen's Civil List (£392,000), the diplomatic salaries and pensions (£175,000), the salaries and allowances paid out of the Consolidated Fund (£249,000), and the cost of all the courts of justice in the kingdom (£769,000), put together! To pay it would require another tax as general and as heavy as the window-tax (£1,603,000), or as all the other assessed taxes together (£1,676,000)! If the duties on cotton wool, sheep's wool, and all the raw materials of our manufactures, repealed for the last four or five years (so far as our memory serves), were re-enacted, they would not more than pay this monstrous school-tax! It will prevent, for years to come, the repeal of taxes which press on the comforts of the people, and on knowledge itself! And all this it will do unnecessarily!

If this infamous measure should succeed, the cause of liberty is doomed in England.

MOVEMENT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF EDUCATION.

IMPORTANT MEETING AT LEEDS.

(Abridged from the *Leeds Mercury*.)

On Thursday last, a very important and influential meeting of ministers and gentlemen of the Congregational body took place at East-Parade Chapel, Leeds, from various parts of the counties of York and Lancaster, to take into consideration the insidious and alarming measure of the Government on Education, and to originate an energetic opposition. The meeting was held in consequence of a circular signed by the following ministers and gentlemen:—The Rev. Richard Winter Hamilton, LL.D., D.D., Rev. Thos. Scales, Rev. John Ely, Rev. Wm. Hudswell, Edward Baines, Esq., and Edward Baines, jun., Esq.

Among the gentlemen present we observed—from Manchester, the Rev. Dr. Massie and the Rev. J. L. Poore; from Bradford, the Rev. Jonathan Glyde, Rev. J. G. Miall, Rev. Walter Scott, Principal of Airedale College, Robert Milligan, Esq., of Acacia, and Henry Forbes, Esq., of Summer-hill House; from Halifax, the Rev. James Pridie, John Crossley, Esq., Matthew Paterson, Esq., and J. C. Hoatson, Esq.; from Huddersfield, Wm. Willans, Esq.; from Wakefield, the Rev. J. D. Lorraine, and J. J. Horner, Esq.; from Bingley, Walter Milligan, Esq., Myrtle Grove; from York, the Rev. Jas. Parsons and George Leeman, Esq.; from Hull, the Rev. Thos. Stratten and the Rev. Ebenezer Morley; from Sheffield, John Wm. Smith, Esq.; from Barnsley, the Rev. W. Beddow; from Pontefract, Francis Barker, Esq.; from Mirfield, the Rev. C. H. Bateman, and Wm. Stancliffe, Esq.; from Gomersal, the Rev. A. M'Milan, and T. W. Burnley, Esq.; from Heckmondwike, the Rev. Robert Martin; from Idle, the Rev. J. Stringer; from Leeds, the Rev. Dr. Hamilton, Rev. Thomas Scales, Rev. John Ely, Rev. Wm. Hudswell, Edward Baines, Esq., Peter Willans, Esq., Edward Baines, jun., Esq., John Wilkinson, Esq., Samuel Hick, Esq., John Jowitt, jun., Esq., &c., &c. Letters of apology for necessary absence, and expressing acquiescence in the object, were read from the Rev. Dr. Raffles, the Rev. John Kelly, and Thomas Blackburn, Esq., Liverpool; Rev. R. Fletcher, Manchester; Rev. David Hewitt, Rochdale; Rev. Newman Hall, Hull; William Ackroyd, Esq., Otley; Rev. R. D. Gibbs, Skipton, &c.

HENRY FORBES, Esq., was called to the chair.

Prayer having been offered by the Rev. THOMAS STRATTEN, the Rev. THOMAS SCALES was requested to act as Secretary.

The Rev. Dr. HAMILTON moved the first resolution (for which, and for all the rest, see the advertisement in another page), and in so doing expressed his unqualified approbation of the entire series. He thought they most correctly designated and described the objectionable measure of the Government, of which he could not express in terms sufficiently strong his own disapprobation. He took the opportunity of thanking his friend and townsman, Mr. Edward Baines, for his letter to the Marquis of Lansdowne, exposing the iniquity of the Government measure; and he denounced the unconstitutional manner in which the measure was brought forward [cheers].

JOHN CROSSLEY, Esq., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Rev. JAMES PARSONS, of York, moved the second resolution. He said, that having gone through the Minutes of the Committee of Council, he cordially concurred in the terms of the resolution expressing the character of the plan. He especially regretted that such a plan should have emanated from a party to which the political attachments of those present had been so long and sincerely rendered, and which now had so abandoned its own avowed principles of liberty [hear]. He opposed the scheme, not only because it would probably grievously injure or entirely destroy the schools of their own denomination, but because it was so adapted gradually to emasculate that spirit of independence which nations must regard as the great bulwark of their permanence and power. Servility in a State was always a grievous evil, but when servility became interwoven with education, as it was throughout the operation of the present plan, it was still more noxious and deadly. He trusted that the whole body of the Protestant Dissenters would combine, and stand forth on the side of freedom, and employ every effort to oppose and defeat this measure [cheers].

JOHN WILKINSON, Esq., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The third resolution was moved by J. W. SMITH, Esq., seconded by the Rev. J. D. LORRAINE, and carried unanimously.

ROBERT MILLIGAN, Esq., moved the fourth resolution.

The Rev. JONATHAN GLYDE stated that he concurred with most of the resolutions which had been passed, but he could not go the length of objecting to all aid on the part of the Government to schools. He thought the present measure exceedingly objectionable, and he should oppose it; but he thought that if it should pass, Dissenters would do themselves injustice if they did not accept the grants [sensation].

The Rev. Dr. HAMILTON expressed his astonishment at the declaration, and thought it contrary to all principle [cheers].

The Rev. J. L. POORE, of Salford, in an animated speech seconded the motion, and expressed his detestation of the measure, as calculated, not only to injure, but even to seduce and corrupt the Dissenters. He appealed to the consciences of Dissenters to oppose this measure, and, if unhappily it should be carried, to reject the money offered as a bribe by the Government. No consistent Voluntary could accept the Government grants [loud cheers].—Carried *nem. con.*

The Rev. THOMAS STRATTEN, of Hull, moved the fifth resolution, of which, and all the rest that had passed, he entirely approved. He said that he could not as yet see his way quite satisfactorily to a denunciation of all aid by Government to education; but he thought this measure was extremely bad, and open to all the objections so forcibly stated against it in the resolutions, as well as by his friend, Mr. E. Baines, in his letter to Lord Lansdowne.

W. STANCLIFFE, Esq., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

GEORGE LEEMAN, Esq., of York, moved the sixth resolution.

He might remark that, as treasurer of a large day-school in the city of York, which has been erected as the result of the educational movement three years ago, at an expense approaching £1,000, he had given the Government measure his most careful consideration; and, with every inclination to have viewed it favourably, if, indeed, any interference by Government in education can receive favour, he was bound to say that he had come to the conclusion that this measure would be utterly destructive of that school, and of all others in similar circumstances, unless its supporters were prepared, out of their own pockets, to offer the same huge bribe which this measure held out to the parents, children, schoolmasters, and every one connected with them. The bait was very exquisitely gilded in the appearance of equality it held out to all sects, but it was perfectly well known to the promoters of this measure, that no independent Dissenter, if he would be true to his principles, could accept the aid which was now proposed; and, consequently, that none of those Government allotments could be held out in the Dissenters' schools. Pass this measure, then, and it would follow that the promoters of their schools must be prepared to raise funds out of their own pockets to bring them up to the standard of temptations offered by the Government schools. And where was the justice of placing the conscientious Dissenters of the country in such a position? But he contended that the nature of the bribery (for he would use no lesser term as applicable to the temptation held out) was utterly revolting to every man possessing a spark of patriotism, and who did not wish to see the whole youthful mind of the country prostrated into a state of abject dependence upon Government, and continually looking out for Government employ, which was one of the inducements held out to all the children in the schools. He would strongly urge upon the meeting the importance of informing the public mind of the real nature of this measure, which was so insinuating and insidious in its character, and which many half-hearted Dissenters, he was sorry to say, did not appear at all to comprehend and understand, and were thus allowing their civil and religious liberties to be frittered away.

The Rev. Dr. MASSIE, of Salford, in seconding the resolution, read part of an energetic remonstrance against the measure, which he had addressed to the Marquis of Lansdowne.

The resolution was carried unanimously. The Rev. J. ELY, in moving the seventh resolution, adverted to the example of bondage exhibited in those boroughs and districts where Government institutions existed:—

He had spent some of his earlier years in a vicinity where Royal dock-yards and large barracks for the military had their seat; and he well recollected the miserable bondage of workmen and tradesmen, who durst not vote at an election according to their convictions—or who neutralized their votes by giving one to the man of their own choice and the other to the Government nominee. By this scheme the whole community would be brought into a similar state of bondage. In the meanwhile the friends of voluntary education would have to labour at serious disadvantage. One gentleman had spoken of schools in our cities and towns which would be ruined unless their supporters should be disposed to counteract the enormous bribery by which the scholars were to be lured from them, by expending a greatly augmented sum, in offering a like bribe for their continuance. But much more fatal would be the effect on rural districts, where, according to a letter he had seen on the previous day, from an active, energetic friend of voluntary education in a southern county, it was anticipated that village Sunday-schools would be swamped and annihilated [cheers].

SAMUEL HICK, Esq., seconded it. Carried unanimously.

The Rev. JAMES PRIDIE moved the eighth resolution, which was seconded by Captain IRVINE, supported by THOMAS PLINT, Esq., and passed unanimously.

The Rev. WALTER SCOTT moved, and MATTHEW HALE, Esq., seconded, the ninth resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

The tenth resolution was moved by W. WILLANS, and seconded by the Rev. J. G. MIAL, and carried unanimously.

EDWARD BAINES, Esq., in moving the next resolution, said:—

If the measure should once be carried, it would be impossible to shake it off; it had been found so even with the *Regium Donum*, which the majority of Dissenters themselves wished to get rid of, but could not. If Parliament were to pass this measure of the Education Board, it would reduce itself in that respect to the condition of the old French Parliaments, which were little more than bodies for registering the edicts of the executive. He himself had all his life supported the Whigs; but he must say that, in this measure, they had abandoned their principles, and taken a

course which called for the strongest opposition of all the friends of liberty [loud cheers].

The Rev. EBENEZER MORLEY, of Hull, seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

EDWARD BAINES, jun., Esq., moved the twelfth resolution, which repudiated all interference on the part of Government with the education of the people, as wrong in principle, and open to the greatest abuse.

He declared his conviction that there was no solid ground on which they could rest their opposition, short of the entire repudiation of Government interference; and he believed that there was no other principle but this broad and intelligible principle, on which they could rouse the country to an effective opposition. He showed the seducing and paralyzing tendency of grants of public money, even on educated and honourable men; how much greater must be the effect of the wholesale bribery proposed by this measure, on the immense number of families among the humbler classes who would be either the recipients or the expectants of public grants! The arguments used against the voluntary principle in education were exactly the same as were used against the voluntary principle in religion. But if they knew their own principles, they were prepared to meet and answer those arguments. It would indeed be a sacrifice, on the part of Dissenters, if this fearful measure should be carried, to refuse to accept Government grants: he did not deny the disadvantage in which it would place them; but he was fully prepared to sustain that disadvantage, rather than desert his principles. On no consideration would he accept the Government money; but what filled him with the deepest disgust was, that he perceived the tendency of the measure to sap the virtue of Voluntaryism, and he believed that it was contrived for that purpose [hear].

The resolution was seconded by the Rev. THOMAS SCALES.

The Rev. J. GLYDE said he should not oppose the motion, but he could not vote for it. He should show by his conduct that he disapproved strongly of the Government measure.

The resolution was then carried *nem. con.*

Several other resolutions were then read by the Rev. Thomas Scales, and moved, seconded, and carried. They related to the manner of opposing the Government measure, and their nature will be seen from the resolutions in the advertisement. Petitions from towns, villages, congregations, and Sunday-schools were recommended, as also the holding of public meetings, and the formation of a central committee in Leeds, and of local committees in all the towns and populous villages of Yorkshire. It was resolved that Mr. E. Baines's letter to the Marquis of Lansdowne was worthy of general circulation, and the same gentleman was requested to draw up an address to Sunday-school teachers. A deputation was appointed to wait upon the Ministers, and express to them the feelings of the meeting, as also to attend the meeting of the Congregational Board of Education next Thursday—the deputation to consist of the Chairman (Henry Forbes, Esq.), Edward Baines, jun., Esq., George Leeman, Esq., John Crossley, Esq., W. Willans, Esq., John W. Smith, Esq., the Rev. John Ely, and the Rev. Thomas Scales.

A liberal subscription was opened at the meeting to defray the necessary expenses.

A cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman was moved by the Rev. JOHN ELY, seconded by W. STANCLIFFE, Esq., and carried by acclamation. The Chairman, in returning thanks, expressed his entire sympathy in the object of the meeting, and his determination to oppose all interference on the part of Government with education.

One thing, says the *Manchester Examiner*, was peculiar to this meeting; that many gentlemen who have heretofore abstained from agitating the question of the union between Church and State, declared their conviction now to be, that nothing short of the separation of all Church establishments from Government support would save the country from such measures and a constant struggle to resist them.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION held, on Wednesday, a special meeting, at which it was resolved, "that, in the opinion of this Board, the Government scheme of Education, as set forth in the minutes of the Committee of Council, of December 6th, 1846, demands the most energetic opposition of all the friends of free education; and that the Board deems the present occasion so important, as to render it advisable to summon a special meeting of its constituency, with a view to consider what steps should be taken at the present juncture." It will be seen, from the advertisement, that the Conference is fixed for to-morrow (Thursday), at the Congregational Library. All ministers of the Congregational body from the country will be admitted to the meeting. The Congregational Board of London ministers are to meet specially upon the subject on an early day. The Dissenting Deputies are summoned for this afternoon. The Wesleyan body is also on the alert.

MEETING OF THE CHURCH PARTY AT WORCESTER.

A meeting of the nobility, gentry, and clergy of the diocese of Worcester was held in that city on Thursday last, to memorialize the Government on the propriety, in the future application of Parliamentary grants to the purposes of education, of regarding the maintenance as well as the establishment of elementary schools, and also of rendering assistance to training institutions. Lord Lyttleton spoke at great length, and made some important admissions. He had not, he said, come to that meeting fully prepared to discuss the policy of the Government scheme; and would, therefore, avoid any positive opinion on the subject. He observed a difficulty, however, in this Government interference, which was this—that individuals were inclined to rely and lean on Government; and the more that Government was inclined to do, the more the people themselves were likely to leave the Government to do, and to leave undone themselves [hear]. His lordship concluded with expressing his hope—a vain hope—that whatever was done by Government would not cause a relaxation of their duty by the people. On the whole, he expressed his approval of the Government measure. The other speakers were all clergymen, and they adopted a very different strain. The Hon. Mr. Yorke

"trusted that the Government, setting out as it did with such large pretensions with regard to National Education, would yield to their demands." The Hon. J. S. Cocks expressed his approval of the measure, which, he said, "was not only calculated to support the principle of national education, but tended to support the principles of our revered Established Church." Mr. J. Sandford cordially approved of the principles of the Government measure, as recognizing the connexion of Church and State. Mr. J. Pearson was sorry to differ with some of the previous speakers on this question; but he felt that the system of a Voluntary education was not good, and regretted that the Government had not brought forward a more comprehensive scheme of national education. The latter gentleman would go "the whole hog" of compulsory education. This is the first meeting, we believe, in favour of the Government scheme; and it speaks more loudly than anything we could urge as to its true design and inevitable tendency.

TEETOTALISM.—Extract of a letter from Theobald Mathew, to R. D. Alexander, Esq., dated 25th January, 1847:—"It will delight you to be assured that the sacred cause is progressing gloriously. In the midst of sufferings, even unto death, the pledge is faithfully observed, and we now, thanks be to God, number more in the ranks of teetotalism than at any other period. The Temperance Society is being tested like gold in the furnace by these calamitous times, and is coming out purified. Drunkenness will never again, with the Divine assistance, become the national sin of Ireland."—*Suffolk Chronicle*.

THE CIVIL WAR IN PORTUGAL.—If Saldanha can bring only 10,000 men before Oporto—and friends say his force does not exceed that number—and there are 7,000 men inside, as I believe there are, he will attack in vain, unless (now comes the rub) treason, intrigue, or desertion, work a miracle in his favour. Intrigues are busy—I will not say that treason exists, or that desertion is going on, but I will assert that, if the besieged have only half the hearts of men, Saldanha has no chance.—*Times' Correspondent*.

A RARE BIRD.—A few days since a gamekeeper, at Littlecott, near Hungerford, Wiltshire shot a large golden eagle, a bird almost unknown in the southern counties. The eagle had gluted itself on a dead deer, and was unable to fly away on the approach of the keeper, who fired six times before he killed it.—*Berkshire Chronicle*.

THE FREE CHURCH AND SLAVERY.—"An old correspondent," in a lengthened communication, for which we are unable to find room, contradicts the statement contained in a letter from Edinburgh, published in the postscript of our last number, to the effect that the leaders of the Free Church are anxious to effect a compromise on the slavery question, and had proposed a conference with the Free Church Anti-slavery Society. "No such arrangement has taken place, nor is likely to take place. In order to make 'security sure,' I called upon a gentleman who holds a most influential position in the Free Church Anti-slavery Society, and he assured me that no such arrangement, however desirable, had taken place, or was there the most remote prospect that it would. At the same time, he stated that he did not despair of ultimate success, though it would most likely be years hence. He further stated, that one grand essential in any proposed settlement of the question would be 'sending back the money.' The lectures delivered by the above Society have done a world of good. They are delivered at an interval of ten days. These measures have rendered opposition more systematic and effectual, and have, necessarily, led the friends of the slave to know each other."—The fifth of the series of lectures was delivered at Rose-street Chapel, Edinburgh, on Tuesday evening last, by Mr. W. Pringle, minister of Auchterarder. The subject of lecture was, the law of Christian fellowship applied to the case of slaveholders.

BURDENS ON LAND COMMISSION.—Lord Langdale, Lord Beaumont, Joseph Humphrey, Esq., Q.C., H. B. Ker, Esq., barrister-at-law, Walter Coulson, Esq., barrister-at-law, George Frere, Esq., and Francis Broderip, Esq., have been appointed commissioners for inquiring whether the burden on land can be diminished by the establishment of an effective system for the registration of deeds and the simplification of the forms of conveyance.

GUIZOT AND NORMANBY.—The *Chronicle* of Saturday prominently puts forward three assertions—that Lord Normanby is not going to leave Paris; that M. Guizot has privately disclaimed any intention of imputing falsehood to the British Ambassador; and that "there is not the faintest prospect of a change of Ministry" in this country.

MR. HENRY STEPHENS, the inventor of the writing fluids, has recently obtained a final decision in the American courts in his favour (after the most protracted law proceedings), establishing his right to the profits arising from the use of his inventions in the United States. The case is one of some importance to English patentees.—*Times*.

MR. FEARGUS O'CONNOR was the purchaser of the Mathon estate, in Worcestershire and Herefordshire, sold a few days since. The price was £20,000.

A NEW COMET.—Mr. Hind has discovered a telescopic comet in Cepheus. The comet is a faint nebulosity, with a slight condensation in the centre, though no positive nucleus is visible.

SIGNS OF PLENTY.—The granaries in and about Stockton and Yarm are so loaded with the "staff of life," that many of them are in danger of breaking down; and, on Wednesday last, the waggons and carts containing grain and pulse of all descriptions were so numerous in Stockton that the streets were literally blocked up with them.—*Durham Chronicle*.

It is now ascertained that no such decree has been issued by the Russian Government as has been represented, prohibiting the export of grain, but that the only circumstance which can have given rise to such a rumour is that the transport of grain across the frontiers in particular cases has been prohibited.—*Morning Chronicle*.

IRELAND.—DEPUTATION FROM CATHOLIC CLERGY.—REPUDIATION OF THE IRISH PARTY.

On Friday afternoon, a deputation, consisting of Mr. Collins and Mr. McCarthy, Catholic clergymen, waited upon Lord John Russell, on Friday, at his official residence, with the view of making his lordship acquainted with the sentiments entertained by the Roman Catholic clergy of the united dioceses of Cloyne and Ross, in reference to the necessity which exists for the introduction of a clause into the new Irish Poor-law Act for the extension of out-door relief to the able-bodied as well as to the infirm destitute poor.

Mr. COLLINS addressed his lordship, with much effect, in the following out-spoken strain:—

They (the Roman Catholic clergy) looked upon out-door relief in a twofold point of view; viz., as a means to arrest the progress of the existing calamity in Ireland, and as a means to prevent its recurrence. When he (Mr. Collins) served as a curate in the parish of Skibbereen, and the adjoining parish of Tu'llough, in the year 1822, the then relief committee had 9,000 persons on their poor lists, out of a population of about 11,000. This proved that the existing evil was not one of recent growth, and hence a radical cure was necessary to prevent its periodical return. Out-door relief could effect that end, by forcing on the owners of the soil the proper discharge of the duties annexed to their position. Unfortunately, that class in Ireland seemed to think that their occupation in life should be to extort as much as possible from the poor peasantry. Hence the people were always in a state of exhaustion, and unable to bear up against the slightest reverse which Providence might impose on them. This state of things accounts for the periodical return of famine and destitution among the people of that unfortunate country, who, whenever they lost the potato crop, were unable to go to the market to purchase other species of food. There was no restraint on the landlords to create destitution to any amount, because the poor had no claim upon the soil for subsistence by law. If such a claim was acknowledged, the landlords, instead of making paupers, would exert their ingenuity and resources to discover the means of employment for the people, whereby the value of their properties would be enhanced, and the miseries of the people guarded against. Hence the Roman Catholic clergy of Cloyne and Ross looked upon out-door relief to the able-bodied as a means to an end, viz., the procurement of employment for the people. Now, they contended that the soil of Ireland alone afforded an ample field for that purpose during the period of a century to come, as it was not half cultivated, and could by proper exertion, and the expenditure of capital, be rendered much more fertile than it was. The landlords often took a mistaken, and generally an ignorant, because so selfish a view of their own interests; and hence, those who call themselves the "Irish party" now ventured to obstruct the general interests of their country. He (Mr. Collins) begged to assure his lordship that the party in question had no hold on the feelings of the people of Ireland, and were disavowed by the industrious middle and labouring classes, whose wants and wishes they did not represent. They (the Irish party) worked for themselves alone, and seemed to have banded themselves together to prevent the operation of the general law of all civilized nations, whereby debtors are amenable to their creditors for the amount of their liabilities. How could it be called confiscation to have Irish landlords pay their debts? If they are not able to do so, why should the general interests of the country be retarded when millions of the population are perishing from cold and famine? It has been intimated, that the Irish people would not endure a change in the proprietorship of the soil by the course of the market. This is an error. What the Irish people most wish for is a sound and solvent proprietor. Be they London merchants, or of any country, if they be good and useful they will be welcomed by Ireland.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL did not enter into any lengthened explanation of the course which he intended to take in reference to the suggestions which had been made by Mr. Collins, and were contained in the memorial which had been read by Mr. McCarthy, but contented himself with saying that it was a great misfortune to have such feelings of distrust existing between landlord and tenant in Ireland as to interfere in the cultivation of the soil. He (Lord John Russell) had written to the Lord-Lieutenant on the subject, with a view to produce united action between both classes in that respect. He (Lord John Russell) thought that much depended on the Roman Catholic clergy, who ought to admonish the people to lay aside the apathy which had seized on their minds.

Mr. COLLINS assured his lordship that the Roman Catholic clergy did their utmost in that respect, but were constantly met with observations by the people similar to those which he had thought proper to bring under his lordship's notice.

Mr. MCCARTHY then addressed his lordship to much the same effect as the previous speaker. Irish landlords, he said, have been too much petted—have been accustomed to get, as rent, everything the ground produced, save as much of the potato crop as was necessary for the support of those who tilled it; and when this uncertain esculent became too scarce occasionally towards the end of the season, they left the people to chance, and a benevolent public generally interposed to supply them with food. He referred to one feature of the memorial they had presented—viz., that of exempting from taxation, for the support of the able-bodied poor, such proprietors as would employ their fair proportion of the number of them in the general union.

The deputation then withdrew.

MUNIFICENT BEQUESTS.—The sum of £12,000 is vested in the undermentioned religious institutions, under the will of the late Mr. John Wilkinson, of High Wycombe, Bucks, who died on the 24th of December last, and such bequests are payable on the decease of his widow, in the following proportions, viz.:—To the British and Foreign Bible Society, £3,000; to the London Missionary Society, £2,000; to the Church Missionary Society, £1,500; to the Baptist Missionary Society, £1,500; to the Wesleyan Missionary Society, £1,000; to the Religious Tract Society, £1,000; to the London Association in aid of Missions of the United Brethren, called Moravians, £1,500; to the Pastoral Aid Society, £250; to the Irish Society of London for Promoting the Education and Religious Instruction of the native Irish through the medium of their own language, £250.—*Globe*.

REFORM MOVEMENT.

RATE-PAYING CLAUSES OF THE REFORM ACT.—On Wednesday night a numerous attended meeting was held at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, for the purpose of petitioning Parliament to repeal the rate-paying clauses of the Reform Act. Mr. Wakley, M.P., occupied the chair. It was insisted, in the course of the very lengthened discussion which took place, that representation, as a matter of constitutional right, should precede taxation, and not be dependent on it; and that the effect of the obnoxious clauses had been to deprive of their franchises a great number of electors rightfully entitled to it, even as to property qualification, and to throw into the hands of the tax-collectors a most dangerous and excessive power. Sir De Lacy Evans stated that, in the three parishes of St. James, St. George, and St. Martin, 1,455, and in Marylebone 1,200, voters had been disqualified in consequence of the non-payment of rates or assessed taxes. The gallant officer adverted to the previous efforts made by himself, and also by Mr. T. Duncombe, to procure the repeal of the clauses complained of—attempts which, though more or less successful in the lower House, had always been opposed by the House of Lords. A resolution having been passed condemnatory of the rate-paying clauses, and a petition founded thereon adopted, and intrusted to Mr. T. Duncombe, M.P., for presentation to the House of Commons, the meeting broke up.

COMPLETE SUFFRAGE MEETING AT LEEDS.—A rather numerous public meeting, composed almost exclusively of operatives, was held at the Court-house, Leeds, on Tuesday, at one o'clock in the afternoon, in order to originate a petition to Parliament in favour of Universal Suffrage. The Mayor (George Goodman, Esq.), who had convened the meeting in compliance with a requisition presented to him, took the chair amidst great cheering. Mr. Horner (a member of the Town Council) briefly moved the first resolution, in which he expressed his entire acquiescence. Its effect was as follows:—

That it is the solemn conviction of this meeting that the elective franchise is the natural inheritance of man, without distinction of class or pecuniary circumstances, and consequently that no man or body of men can be justified in preventing its exercise by the people; that the present franchise is therefore unjust in principle, as it excludes 6-7ths of the male adult population from its exercise, as well as injurious in practice, as it allows a minority of those who may chance to be electors at the time of any election, the power of sending men to Parliament who invariably carry measures for the support of property, and leave labour almost entirely unprotected [cheers].

Mr. Brook (also a member of the Town Council) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. Mr. Mackintosh moved, and Mr. J. Shaw seconded, the next resolution, declaring the desirableness of Universal Suffrage. A petition to the House of Commons, embodying all the six points of the Charter, was unanimously agreed to, also another praying for a repeal of the rate-paying clause of the Reform Bill; both of which were to be signed by the chairman of the meeting, and sent to Mr. Duncombe for presentation. The Mayor, who, although in favour of a considerable extension of the suffrage, could not go so far as the bulk of the meeting, spoke with much good feeling, and complimented his fellow-townsmen on their good sense and good conduct, and added that he could only say that many sentiments had been breathed by the different speakers to-day which he hoped would live in their memories, and gain that ascendancy in their hearts which would bring them into practical operation [loud applause].

A London correspondent writes to the *Edinburgh Chronicle* as follows, but we cannot vouch for the correctness of his information. Sometimes, however, you must go from home to hear news:—

The Rate-paying Clauses of the Reform Bill are doomed. Last evening a most influential social meeting was held here, when such resolutions were passed and such an organization formed as will enable Lord John Russell to give a practical proof that he repudiates the finality notions that have so long been ascribed to him.

The working-classes are again in motion. A central committee has commenced in the midland counties, with petitions in favour of the Charter, and already upwards of half a million of signatures have been obtained. While this agitation is in progress, another project has been started by some of the Complete Suffragists for the purpose of calling a conference of all true-hearted reformers, with a view to ascertain whether or not a general union can be formed on such a broad yet solid basis as may admit of the co-operation of all and the compromise of principle by none. The leaders of the old movement have consented to this, and it is confidently hoped that an effective union will be formed.

DISTRESS IN MANCHESTER.—Perhaps at no period within the remembrance of the oldest inhabitants have distress and privation pressed more heavily on the working classes than at the present moment. The streets are crowded with paupers, most of them Irish, who have travelled from Liverpool to Manchester in the hope either of obtaining employment, or sharing with others from the public bounty of the town. A soup-kitchen has been established, from which are distributed daily some 6,000 quarts of nutritious soup, with 1,000 loaves of bread. It is remarkable that of the recipients of this charity nine-tenths are Irish people.

MR. RICHARD OASTLER, in his enthusiastic delight at the progress of the Ten Hours Bill, has sent a letter to the *Morning Post*, commencing in this fashion:—"Permit me, through the medium of your columns, to offer to Almighty God the grateful thanks of an overflowing heart for His gracious interference on behalf of the poor oppressed factory children and women!"

CABINET COUNCILS were held on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday, in the last week.

A ROYAL POET.—The *Journal des Debats* announces that the King of Bavaria is about to publish a fourth volume of poems.

THE RIBBON OF THE GARTER, vacant by the death of the Duke of Northumberland, is to be given to the Duke of Bedford.

LITERATURE.

The Catholic Series.—*Characteristics of Men of Genius; a series of Biographical, Historical, and Critical Essays.* 2 vols., post 8vo, cloth. London: Chapman, Brothers, 121, Newgate-street.

This is a truly delightful book, and we have great pleasure in recommending it to all our readers. The essays, indeed, of which it consists, are not original; but they are new to most English readers, being selected chiefly from the *North American Review*. The selection is admirable, and, considering that the essays are composed by different writers, it is remarkable what oneness of aim and spirit pervades the entire collection. Each essay, having for its object the development of the characteristics of one mind, is complete in itself, and almost perfect in the elegance and beauty of its execution, while all are strictly just and impartial in their estimate of the character, life, and works of men of genius. Notwithstanding that our press teems with good productions in this popular branch of literature, we heartily welcome the present work as worthy to take its stand by the side of the "contributions" of our own great reviewers. If they have less display of elaboration and less brilliance than those of the latter, their writers appear to us to throw their soul more wholly into their subjects, and show a greater effort to do their heroes full justice than to display their own skill. As specimens of the literature of America, they are highly honourable to that country; and we have no doubt that the interesting nature of the subject, and the engaging manner and style in which it is taken up, will secure to these essays an extensive circulation.

The essays are arranged into four groups. One group, on Ecclesiastics, includes three essays on Gregory VII., Loyola, and Pascal; another group, on Poets, consists of essays on Dante, Petrarch, Milton, Shelley, Byron, Scott, Goethe, Wordsworth, and the German Poets; the third group has only two essays, on Artists—Michel Angelo and Canova; and the last group includes three essays on the Statesmen—Louis IX., Machiavelli, and Peter the Great. Out of such a number of articles of great merit and pervading excellence, it is impossible to speak of any separately. In all of them, as clear an insight as is, perhaps, within the limits, possible, is given into the soul of the hero; his works are uniformly treated, not as something distinct from the mind that gave them birth, but as part and parcel of the mind itself—as mere externalizations of its magnificent conceptions. They do not stoop to minutiae in criticizing trifling defects and imperfections of works of genius, but take a much loftier station, and, in a reverential but not the less manly spirit, they perform the far more pleasing office of exhibiting the nobler traits and features of mind, and of pointing out the way to a true appreciation of the power and greatness of genius. We are made to feel that, in the ennobling study of those beautiful and bold ideas which are embodied in their works, whether in art, song, or life, we are communing with the creators themselves, who are emphatically the property, not of any one age or of any one country, but of the whole human race. It may be right, however, to state that there is nothing in these volumes savouring of the Carlylean doctrine of hero-worship, or the Straussian notion of the worship of genius—nothing tending to an indiscriminate adoration of the individual as impersonating the all-pervading force of nature, or to the rendering of that homage to great, but finite, minds which ought to be yielded to Infinite Intelligence alone. We think the talented editor eminently successful in his attempt to furnish us, in these essays, with an illustration of the value which he attaches to the study of great minds, and which is expressed in the following quotation from the beautiful introduction with which these volumes are enriched:—

"They enlarge our idea of man, and proclaim the limitless possibilities that lie before him. His psychical nature is confessedly the same throughout all epochs, and in each individual being. Though displayed in different gradations of growth, there is in each a fundamental likeness of intelligence and feeling. Thought responds to thought, hope to hope, love to love. Being of the same flesh and blood, possessing an identity of nature with these great ones, they are at once, by their existence, the teachers of mighty truths, and the pledges of their fulfilment. Their own lives justify their doctrines. Hence they speak to us in tones of the sweetest encouragement. Their various utterances compose the splendid volume in which each may behold inscribed his own preconceived or latent thought. The diversity and extent of their individual attainments are so many distinct intimations of the number and greatness of man's faculties, and of the many unknown regions which he has still to explore and possess. Their effect upon us should not be to induce a blind adoration of themselves as individuals, but to awaken us from unconsciousness to consciousness, and to induce a perception of the unrecognized and immeasurable power—of the almost boundless resources and inexhaustible nature of the human mind; and thus, by showing to us, reflected, as it were, from these splendid mirrors, the grandeur and divineness of our common nature, to inspire us with a profound and permanent faith in man—to rouse into activity the latent energies that lie folded within us—to vivify, enlarge, and elevate the belief in the glorious destiny that awaits us, and beckons us unceasingly onward for its accomplishment."—Preface, pp. xv., xvi.

The essay on Machiavelli is a very able effort to rescue that great man's name from unmerited obloquy, and proves, from unimpeachable data, that even Roscoe wronged him by abandoning his usual course of careful thought and original research. The one on Byron (from the same pen, we are told, as that on Wordsworth) contains a severe but a very masterly delineation of his genius. Tearing aside the veil of exterior beauty from his fascinating verse, the writer fearlessly exposes and sternly rebukes the demoralizing tendency of its spirit. Fully admitting the force and brilliance of his genius, the writer tries him before the tribunal of

moral principle, and finds him wanting. With very warm recommendations of the work to all men of literary taste, and all public libraries and reading societies, we close with the following short quotation from the essay on Byron, which is a fair specimen of the correct criticism which runs throughout the whole work:—

"If we analyze some of the beautiful passages in 'Manfred' and 'Childe Harold,' we shall find that the beauty is rather in appearance than in substance, in the outward show and dress of the sentiment rather than in its spirit, in words more than in ideas. Translated into plain prose they would seem either horrible or laughable. In this, one of Byron's many characteristics, he reverses a peculiarity of Wordsworth. The latter evolves the latent beauty residing in objects which appear mean and unpoetical to the eye; Byron casts the drapery of the beautiful over things intrinsically mean and bad, and renders them poetical to the eye. Wordsworth would experience the same satisfaction in delineating a peasant or a pedlar which Byron would find in drawing a philosophical debauchee or a sentimental pirate. The former, placing a confiding trust in the essential dignity and elevation of his theme, is contented with simplicity of diction; the latter, feeling the unworthiness of his subject, dazzles and blinds the eye with a blaze of words. If Wordsworth is inclined to make poverty and peasants too elevated, Byron is disposed to make piracy and robbers too respectable. Both superadd imaginary attributes upon the realities which the names of their characters suggest; but one aims to shed beauty over humble virtue, the other labours to make vice splendid."—Vol. i., p. 258.

The Modern British Plutarch; or Lives of Men distinguished in the recent History of our Country. By W. C. TAYLOR, LL.D., &c., &c. Post 8vo, cloth. London: Grant and Griffith, St. Paul's Churchyard.

The first title of this little volume is rather too ambitious for its humble pretensions. The object of the author is very candidly announced in a short preface, in which he says, "Intelligent young persons hear names, familiar as household words to their parents, but of which they themselves know nothing; for we all have a habit of speaking of the events, with which we are contemporary or nearly so, as if they had the same notoriety for the young that they have for the old." "It is sometimes forgotten that the eminent men who have departed from the stage of life within our memory, though they cease not to be contemporaries for us, have become historical personages for our children, and that they require to be informed of all that we remember. Impressed with these views, the author was induced to select the biographies of such men in the past and passing generation as appeared to have had most influence in moulding the opinions and shaping the destinies of the British people." As a biographical registrar, Dr. Taylor deserves praise for the brevity, clearness, and fidelity with which he records details and facts, and for the care with which he has abstained from manifesting any political bias or party feeling, and from all animadversions on controvertible questions. We are glad to find that in describing the career of military commanders he has said nothing which is calculated to foster the false notions about "the glory" of war. Indeed, he strictly confines himself to the office of a bare narrator of facts, and discharges its functions with accuracy and simplicity. The volume contains thirty-eight lives; and though we miss a few names in the list of contents, we must acknowledge that the selection is "on the whole sufficiently varied to amuse, and sufficiently comprehensive to instruct." The book is peculiarly adapted to schools; and all young persons desirous of obtaining information respecting the lives and deeds of those who, during the last half century, were the most distinguished in statesmanship, philanthropy, science, and poetry, will at a very small cost find a faithful record of them in the pages of this volume.

Chemistry of the Four Seasons: an Essay concerning Natural Phenomena admitting of Interpretation by Chemical Science, and Illustrating Passages of Scripture. By T. GRIFFITHS, Professor of Chemistry, &c., &c. London: John Churchill.

WITHIN the last century chemical science has advanced more rapidly than any other department of experimental philosophy; and every effort to popularize it, and to bring its interesting experiments and discoveries within the reach of the uninitiated, deserves great encouragement. Besides the growing importance of its applications to the various industrial arts, we remind our readers of the peculiar and deep interest accompanying its study, on account of its bearings on religion. Chemistry was once the stronghold of the sceptic, but now, having dislodged him from this his seemingly impregnable fortress, it enables us to wield triumphantly all the elements of nature in favour of religion, and it opens to our admiring gaze a fresh page of the volume of nature, one that is crowded with beautiful and magnificent illustrations of the power, wisdom, and goodness of the great architect of the universe. "The chemist," says Professor Griffiths, "endeavours to act as the humble and faithful interpreter of the wonders of creation, and everywhere discovers proofs of God's power and goodness. What a glorious contrast does this exalted occupation present, to the sordid pursuits of the darker ages, when the transmutation of metals and the production of an elixir of immortality formed the vain and presumptuous hopes of the experimenter!" This very interesting volume is professedly written, "not for the proficient, but for the uninitiated in chemistry," and as such it is a valuable accession to the popular science of the age. The science has already been too long restricted within the narrow precincts of the laboratory, and the uninitiated have been kept aloof from it by the forbidding veil of technical nomenclature which has been thrown around it. Professor Griffiths furnishes the reader with simple and clear explanations of the few terms which use has rendered unavoidable in the study, which none will find any difficulty in comprehending. In accompanying the author through the rest of this book, the reader will be astonished at the variety, beauty, and magnificence of the illustrations of facts in natural science, which the

four seasons of germination, growth, maturity, and repose present to the eyes of every beholder, and at the facility with which many very simple experiments may at any time be made in this vast laboratory of nature, without the cost or trouble of chemical instruments, or any artificial apparatus. We commend the volume especially to all young persons, who will find in it abundant materials for thought, and may be led by the study to acquire the important habit of constant observation, which might furnish them with a rich fund for instructive as well as pleasing conversation.

GLEANINGS.

TRUE VALUE.—The churchyard is the market-place where the things of this world are duly rated.—*Baxter.*

THIS WORLD AND THE NEXT.—He that will often put this world and the next before him, and look steadfastly at both, will find the latter growing greater, and the former less.

A SIMPLE RULE.—To ascertain the length of the day and night at any time of the year, double the time of the sun's rising, which gives the length of the night; and double the time of setting, which gives the length of the day.

NON-LIABILITY OF A HUSBAND FOR HIS WIFE.—In the case, *Reeve v. the Marquis of Conyngham*, tried in the Court of Exchequer, on Thursday week, it was decided that husbands are not answerable for debts contracted by their wives, living separately on a sufficient allowance, even though creditors have no notice.

The first five-pound notes ever issued in the Isle of Man have just been put in circulation by the Commercial Banking Company.

The county of Durham has almost wholly escaped the potato blight. According to the *Sunderland Herald*, some of the farmers attribute the exemption to the abundance of coal smoke and vapours from the alkali works.

WISDOM OF OUR ANCESTORS.—In the reign of Edward the first the use of coal was prohibited in London, on account of the supposed injurious effects of the smoke.

"SELLING OFF!—TREMENDOUS SACRIFICE!"—A highly respectable (!) retail dealer, in one of the principal thoroughfares of London, justifying himself from the charge of ruinous dealings, said, very naively, "This is the fourth time within two years that I have sold off my stock at considerable loss, with considerable profit!"—*Globe.*

Although wheat is dearer in Paris than in London, yet flour is rather higher, and bread still higher, in London than in Paris.

The "oldest inhabitant" is said to be a woman now living in Moscow, in Russia, who is 168 years of age. At the age of 122 she married her fifth husband.

It is computed that over five hundred printers have enlisted for the Mexican war within the last three months.—*New York Paper.*

Professor Macvey Napier, of Edinburgh, a contributor to the "Encyclopædia Britannica," and nearly twenty years editor of the *Edinburgh Review*, died last week, aged seventy.

Mr. George Armstrong, A.B., of Bristol, on the part of himself and other abolitionists, has presented Mr. Frederick Douglass with a silver inkstand.

One of the speakers at a late meeting of the licensed victuallers in Liverpool was the Hon. Frederick le Poer Trench, barrister-at-law, who keeps a public-house in Paddington Edgehill.

The Queen has ordered twenty-five pairs of knitted stockings for the royal infants, of two peasant girls in the county of Clare, who are celebrated for their taste and skill in knitting.

At a meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society, on Monday, Mr. R. Monro stated that the society had distributed, since its formation, forty years ago, 18,000,000 copies of the Holy Scriptures.

ETON.—The abolition of the triennial festival of "Montem," the origin of which is supposed to be coeval with the foundation of Eton College itself, has been at length officially announced.

The population of the United Kingdom in 1846 was about 23,487,000; the probable permanent increase was about 800 daily; for, although the births exceed the deaths 1,056 the surplus of 256 is the average number who leave the kingdom.

There are said to be thirty clergymen of the Church of England descended from the Hebrew race, besides several hundreds of lay members.

DEATH OF MR. SHARON TURNER.—The celebrated author of the "History of the Anglo-Saxons" died early on the morning of the 13th inst., in his seventy-ninth year. Mr. Turner was in the receipt of a pension of £200 a year, and the first volume of his "History of the Anglo-Saxons" was published in 1799.

A CHEAP DINNER FOR THREE BISHOPS.—In a book kept by the bailiffs of Oxford, at the time when Cranmer, Latimer, and Ridley were in custody there, the following entry occurs of the bill of fare and expenses of the dinner for the three prisoners on the 1st October, 1554:—Bread and ale, 2d.; oysters, 1d.; butter, 2d.; eggs, 2d.; lynn, 8d.; a piece of fresh salmon, 10d.; wine, 3d.; cheese and pears, 2d.; the whole three dinners, 2s. 6d. What would some of our modern Right Rev. Fathers in God say to such fare as this?

A FEMALE DANIEL LAMBERT.—Mrs. Elizabeth Armistage, a lady of alarmingly large proportions, is now being exhibited at the Cosmorama-rooms, Regent-street, London, her dimensions being 85 inches round the hips; her bust, 72; her waist, 47; her arm, and the calf of her leg, each 22½! These be noble proportions, and may well excite astonishment—the more so, as the head, hands, and feet, are scarcely a shade bigger than those of ordinary mortals. This full-blown lady walks easily, though the weight of 445 pounds (the aggregate of her personal conditions) is no joke to carry. Her health is stated to be good, and her bodily enlargements the mere growth of pure healthy flesh, the increase of which it is supposed is even yet not terminated! She is a native of Norwich, and is now twenty-nine years of age. Her manners are polite, and her conversation cheerful and unaffected.

FROM THE BANQUET TO THE BURIAL GROUND.—The Leeds corporation, we learn from the local papers, during a meeting last week, "adjourned for twenty minutes, and partook of the hospitality of the worthy mayor, who had

kindly provided turtle soup and sherry, *ad libitum.*" They returned from the feast to discuss the state of the Leeds burial ground.

VALUE OF YANKEE SPEECHES.—Conversation in Congress frequently interrupts debate. Members of the house pay very little respect to each other's speeches, and probably estimate them at their real value by not listening to them.—*American Sun.*

THE SKIPPING-ROPE.—The skipping-rope, a toy which is discarded by the young girl when entering a premature womanhood, but which ought to be looked upon as a necessary article in every boudoir, or private room occupied by a woman of civilized life and civilized habits, is one of the best, if not the very best, kind of gymnastic exercise that I know. It exercises almost every muscle of the body. There are few women who do not neglect exercise. Men—most of whom have some necessary out-of-door occupation—men almost universally walk more than women. Thousands upon thousands of English women never cross the threshold of their houses oftener than once a week, and then it is to attend the public worship of their Maker; and it is seldom that in towns the distance to the church or chapel is such as to occupy more than ten minutes in going thither.—*Dr. Robertson.*

A QUEEN'S HARD-HEARTEDNESS.—Lately, writes a correspondent of the *Post*, the Countess of Bomfim applied to Donna Maria, to solicit that her husband, who was severely ill, might be, after a medical examination, removed to the prison hospital, or any other prison; she represented in the strongest colours, the misery the loss of her husband and son would entail upon her. On Donna Maria refusing to lend an ear to her sorrows, and turning her back to her, she saw Ferdinand Coburg, who, it seems, felt for her situation, and promised her to speak to the Queen; but after waiting about two hours for his answer, she was told to apply to the Secretary of State. She did so, but to no purpose.

CATARACT OF NIAGARA.—An anecdote will serve to give an idea of the resistless force of the cataract. After the last American war, three of our ships stationed on Lake Erie, were declared unfit for service, and condemned. Some of their officers obtained permission to send them over Niagara Falls. The first was torn to shivers by the rapids, and went over in fragments; the second filled with water before she reached the fall; but the third, which was in better condition, took the leap gallantly, and retained her form till it was lost in the cloud of mist below. A reward of ten dollars was offered for the largest fragment of wood that could be found from either wreck, five for the second, and so on. One morsel only was ever seen, and that about a foot in length; it was marked as if by a vice, and its edges notched like a saw. What had become of the immense quantity of wood which had been precipitated? What unknown whirlpool had engulfed it, so that, contrary to the very laws of nature, no vestige of the floating material could find its way to the surface?

PERIODICALS.—A catalogue of London periodicals and newspapers, law reports, and transactions of various societies, just issued by Messrs. Longmans, for the current year, will be found very useful, especially amid the confusion caused in the public mind by the multitude of serial publications which now inundate the land. It is enough to distract the most attentive to be told that two hundred and eighty-nine monthly publications are enumerated, and that their cost amounts to upwards of twenty guineas! (£21 15s. 10½d). The weeklies are far more moderate; amounting in all to thirty-six, and the price of the whole under twelve shillings (11s. 3½d). The quarterlies are forty-four in number, but the charge rises to within a shilling of ten pounds. According to this account a quarter's periodical publications, supposing an individual to take them all, would amount to above eighty pounds, or somewhere about three hundred and thirty pounds per annum—say, in round numbers, a sovereign a day! Surely we ought to be a well-informed people.—*Literary Gazette.*

THE PRESIDENT IN A "FIX."—At a ball recently given at Washington, Mr. Polk being present, there was an alarm of fire in the lower part of the building. A newspaper reporter, who was standing near his executive-ship, thus literally sets down the history of the event:—"A messenger came up to the President, and addressed him in these words: 'Mr. President, I have the honour to inform you that the house is on fire.' The President replied, 'Is it?' and pushed for the staircase. After the fire had been extinguished, the company, which had retreated in good order, returned, but the President was seen no more."

EXTRAORDINARY STATEMENT.—THE DEAD LETTER-OFFICE.—At the annual dinner of the Liverpool Guardian Society, held at the Albion Hotel, on Friday, the Mayor in the chair, Rowland Hill, Esq., in replying to the toast of his health, &c., said—"Now that letters were prepaid, of course but a small proportion were returned to the Dead Letter-office; and yet the average amount of money in refused letters amounts to four hundred thousand pounds per annum [great astonishment]. Many thousand pounds were yearly found in letters which had absolutely no address upon them whatever." [We should like to know where all this money goes.]

SHIPWRECK AND LOSS OF FIFTY LIVES.—News has arrived of the total wreck of the Creole, a French emigrant-ship, on the coast of Cuba, on the night of the 19th December. The Creole, a crazy old ship, sailed from Bordeaux to New Orleans, having a hundred and twenty French and English passengers on board. She struck on a reef of rocks, and speedily went to pieces. The boats were got out, and every exertion was made by M. Cayal, the master, to save the people; but he himself and fifty others perished. Among those lost were eighteen females and twenty children. Some of the crew behaved in the most inhuman manner, robbing the living and chopping off the fingers and ears of the dead to get possession of the trinkets. The survivors of the emigrants were hospitably received by the citizens of Nuevitas: the poor people had lost everything.

BIRTHS.

Feb. 16, at No. 7, Spital-square, Mrs. W. J. Lewis, of a daughter.

Feb. 18, at Sandbach, the wife of Mr. JOHN MOSS, minister, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Feb. 9, at the Tabernacle Chapel, Narberth, Pembrokeshire, by Mr. Henry Davies, Mr. THOMAS MORGAN, to Miss GRIFFITHS, of Narberth, granddaughter of the late celebrated Theophilus Morgan, familiarly known as Hoffer Gof, who preached the gospel for upwards of sixty years.

Feb. 12, at the Independent Chapel, Whiting-street, Bury, by Dr. Jackson, Mr. C. R. BLAXILL, to Miss MARY ANN REEVE, daughter of Mr. Robert Reeve of the Greyhound-inn, Isworth.

Feb. 12, at Ebenezer Chapel, Hay, Breconshire, by Mr. E. Williams, Sulisth, Mr. M. Lewis, Independent minister, Bangor, to

SARAH ELIZABETH, eldest daughter of Mr. D. GRIFFITHS, Hay, late of Madagascar.

Feb. 13, at Summer-town Church, Oxford, by Mr. Sansom, minister, Mr. BENJAMIN COLLS, of Tonbridge Wells, Kent, to ANNE, daughter of John CHILLINGWORTH, Esq., of Summer-town, Oxford.

Feb. 15, at Oxford-place and machine-ruler, to MARY ANN, daughter of Mr. William SHEPHERDSON, all of that town.

Feb. 15, at Highfield Chapel, Huddersfield, by Mr. J. Glendinning, minister, Mr. JOSEPH BOOTHROYD, linen draper, to PHOEBE, daughter of Mr. John SENIOR, sharebroker, all of Huddersfield.

Feb. 16, at the Independent Chapel, Castle-street, Great Torrington, by the pastor, Mr. James Buckpitt, Mr. THOMAS SING, hatter, to Miss CATHERINE JUDD, both of Great Torrington.

Feb. 16, at the Baptist Chapel, Bradford, Wilts, by Mr. Hawkins, the minister of the chapel, Mr. G. GORE, to RUTH, second daughter of Mr. J. SIMS, both of Bradford.

Feb. 16, at Castle-square Chapel, Wisbech, by the pastor, Mr. W. Holmes, CHARLES LILLY to ELIZA KNOWLES SMITH.

Feb. 17, at the Independent Chapel, Winchmore-hill, by the pastor, Mr. J. C. Edwards, Mr. WILLIAM REYNOLDS, to Miss DINAH STALTON, both of the above place. This was the first marriage solemnized in the above place of worship.

Feb. 17, at the Square Chapel, Halifax, by the pastor, Mr. J. Priddle, Mr. FREDERICK MANN, ironmonger, to MARY ANN, only daughter of Mr. John WATSON, cardmaker, all of that place.

DEATHS.

Jan. 29, at New York, U.S., aged 40, THOMAS JEREMIAH, eldest son of Mr. Thomas MIDDLEBITCH, minister, of Calne. His end was peace. Same day, aged 15, CAROLINE MARTHA, the only child of the above Mr. T. J. MIDDLEBITCH, both victims to typhus fever.

Feb. 10, at his lodgings, 10, Thavies-inn, CHARLES CLEVE, Esq., formerly of Basingstoke, Hants, greatly respected by the large circle of his acquaintance. His end was peace.

Feb. 13, in his 80th year, RICHARD ATKINS, Esq., of Sturt-place, Hoxton.

Feb. 14, at Castle-hill, Reading, EDWARD LLEWELIN, aged one month, the infant son of Mr. W. LEOG, Independent minister.

Feb. 19, at Bideford, Devon, at the house of his parents, where, for the last five months, he resided for the benefit of his health, Mr. T. HOLMAN, pastor of the Baptist church, Taunton. In the spring of 1846 he left Bristol College, and, under the most encouraging circumstances, settled with the church at Taunton; but, almost immediately, symptoms of delicate health appeared. After the labours of a few months he came to his native place, in the hope of restoration; but, alas! it was to sink into the arms of death.

Feb. 20, at Wigan, aged 75, JAMES DONALDSON, Esq., for many years a trustee and attendant of St. Paul's Independent Chapel in that town.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Friday, February 19.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnizing marriages, pursuant to an act of the 6th and 7th William IV., c. 85:—

Baptist Chapel, Great Bolton.
Primitive Methodist Chapel, Leighton.

BANKRUPTS.

AWLEY, JANE, Exeter, milliner, March 4 and 25: solicitors, Mr. T. Floud, Exeter; and Mr. T. Pearson, Essex-street, Strand, London.
BUCHANAN, JOHN, and EDR. FRANCIS, late of Calcutta, merchants, March 3, April 9: solicitor, Mr. Dingwall, Token-house-yard, City.

COOK, EDWIN, Dursley, tailor, March 11, April 8: solicitor, Mr. Bishop, Dursley.

DANIELS, ABRAHAM, Brompton, merchant, March 2 and 30: solicitor, Mr. W. C. Mansfield, John-street, Bedford-row.

DAVIES, DAVID, Lydney, coal master, March 5, April 9: solicitors, Messrs. Treherne and White, Barge-yard-chambers, Bucklersbury, London; and Mr. H. S. Sabine, Bristol.

FITZGERALD, JEROME, Sheerness, Kent, grocer, March 3 and 30: solicitor, Mr. Sparham, Chancery-lane.

FLAXMAN, JOHN STOKER, Ludgate-street, tailor, March 3 and 30: solicitor, Mr. A. M. Low, Chancery-lane.

HAMLIN, RICHARD, Blenheim-street, tailor, March 1, April 1: solicitors, Messrs. Dickson and Co., Old Jewry-chambers.

HANCE, JOHN WILLIAM, Liverpool, architectural ornament manufacturer, March 5 and 26: solicitors, Messrs. Cornthwaite and Co., Old Jewry-chambers, London; and Mr. C. Pemberton, Liverpool.

JONES, JOHN, of New York, formerly of Birkenhead, tea dealer, March 2, May 4: solicitors, Messrs. Gregory and Co., Bedford-row, London; and Mr. Green, Liverpool.

MACKAY, JAMES, Liverpool, tailor, March 2, April 9: solicitors, Messrs. Holme and Co., New Inn, London; and Mr. J. Yates, jun., Liverpool.

NEPP, WILLIAM, Colchester, carpenter, February 26, March 29: solicitors, Messrs. Milne and Co., Temple.

SANDRINELLI, GIUSEPPE QUARTO, Brompton, merchant, Feb. 26, March 30: solicitor, Mr. Buchanan, Basinghall-street.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

CRAWFORD, JAMES, Glasgow, spirit dealer, Feb. 21, March 16.
GLASSFORD, JOHN BRYCE, Glasgow, commission merchant, Feb. 21, March 17.

DIVIDENDS.

John Boyd and James Boyd, Wellington-chambers, Southwark, hop merchants, first div. of 1s. 1d.; at 25, Coleman-street, any Wednesday—Alexander Augustus Mackay and Nathaniel James White Holt, St. Helen's-place, Bishopsgate-street, merchants, first div. of 4s. 6d.; at 25, Coleman-street, any Wednesday—Edward Cawdell, Kingston-upon-Hull, dealer in toys, second div. of 2s. 8d.; at 2, Basinghall-street, any Wednesday—Jabez Russell, jun., Whiteless, Cambridgehire, builder, first div. of 4s.; at 2, Basinghall-street, any Wednesday—Richard Crompton, Moses Price, and Timothy Compton, Shrigley, Cheshire, brick makers, first div. of 8s. 10d.; at 7, Charlotte-street, Manchester, any Tuesday—Samuel Hague, Manchester, cotton spinner, first div. of 3s. 5d.; at 7, Charlotte-street, Manchester, any Tuesday—Joseph Phillips, Manchester, cotton spinner, first div. of 4s. 8d.; at 7, Charlotte-street, Manchester, any Tuesday—William Edwin Oldham, Manchester, commission agent, second div. of 1s. 0d.; at 7, Charlotte-street, Manchester, any Tuesday—Samuel Hawley, of Ashton-under-Lyne, grocer, first div. of 5s. 9d.; at 72, George-street, Manchester, any Tuesday—Joseph Hindmarsh, Liverpool, woollen draper, first div. of 6s.; at 11, Eldon-chambers, Liverpool, any Thursday—Samuel Reading, Birmingham, book and eye manufacturer, first div. of 4s. 10d.; at 7, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, any Thursday.

Tuesday, Feb. 23rd.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnizing marriages, pursuant to an act of the 6th and 7th William IV., c. 85:—

The Baptist Chapel, Upwell, Norfolk.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

LIGHTFOOT, THOMAS, Nottingham, grocer.

BANKRUPTS.

BAILEY, JOHN, Stalybridge, joiner, March 6, April 1: solicitors, Messrs. Reed and Langford, Friday-street, London; and Messrs. Sale and Co., Manchester.

BEAL, JAMES, Manchester, wholesale confectioner, March 9, 26: solicitors, Messrs. Johnson and Co., Temple, London; and Messrs. Hitchcock and Co., Manchester.

CALLIET, PIERRE, Manchester, leather dealer, March 8, 29: solicitors, Messrs. Barlow and Aston, Manchester.

DAY, GEORGE THOMAS, Commercial-road, Pimlico, civil engineer, March 4, April 8: solicitor, Mr. Grainger, 27, Bucklersbury.

FITZGEOFF, JOHN, Nottingham, tailor, March 5, April 9: solicitors, Messrs. Parsons, Nottingham.

HARVEY, JOHN WILLIAM, Ottery St. Mary, Devonshire, grocer, March 9 and 31: solicitors, Messrs. Bishop and Pitts, Exeter; and Mr. W. Harris, 5, Stone-buildings, Lincoln's-inn, London.

HIRST, GEORGE, Halifax, woolstapler, March 9, April 20: solicitors, Messrs. Gregory and Co., Bedford-row, London; Mr. Wavill, Halifax; and Mr. C. B. Courtney, Leeds.

NAISMITH, JOHN, Bradford, perfumer, March 9, April 20: solicitors, Mr. Nethercole, New-inn, London; Mr. Foster, Bradford; and Messrs. Harle and Clarke, Leeds.

PARNALL, WILLIAM, 219, Blackfriars-road, clothier, March 5, April 8: solicitor, Mr. Loughborough, Austin-friars.

ROGERS, JONATHAN, Norwich, boot maker, March 4, April 5: solicitors, Messrs. Maples and Co., Frederick's-place, Old Jewry; and Mr. Woods, Great Yarmouth.

SMITH, EDWARD, Brentwood, cheesemonger, March 5 and 27: solicitors, Messrs. J. and J. H. Linklater, 115, Leadenhall-street.

WRIGHT, ROBERT, 15, Coppice-row, Clerkenwell, timber merchant, March 8, April 5: solicitor, Mr. Richardson, Coleman-street.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

JAMIE, WILLIAM, Glasgow, coal master, Feb. 26, March 19.

M'KENZIE, JAMES, Dundee, shoemaker, March 3, 21.

MAXWELL, JOHN, Glasgow, tailor, Feb. 27, March 19.

NORRIS, ROBERT, Glasgow, wine merchant, March 1, 23.

O'NEILL, HUGH, Glasgow, spirit merchant, March 2, 23.

DIVIDENDS.

John Parsons, Wolverhampton, edge tool manufacturer, first div. of 2d.; at 7, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, any Thursday—William Pattinson, Liverpool, merchant, second div. of 3d.; at 1, Liverpool-court, South Castle-street, Liverpool, any Monday—Clay Hall, Liverpool, merchant, second div. of 4d.; at 1, Liverpool-court, South Castle-street, Liverpool, any Monday—William Simpson More, Liverpool, wine merchant, first div. of 5d.; at 1, Liverpool-court, South Castle-street, Liverpool, any Monday—William Worrall and Robert Williamson, Liverpool, merchants, fifth div. of 1-16th of a penny; at 1, Liverpool-court, South Castle-street, Liverpool, any Monday.

BRITISH FUNDS.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 percent Consols ..	91	91	91	90	90	90
Otto for Account ..	91	91	91	90	90	90
3 percent Reduced ..	91	91	91	91	91	91
New 3 percent ..	93	93	93	92	92	92
Long Annuities ..	94	94	94	94	94	94
Bank Stock ..	203	203	203	204	203	203
India Stock ..	250	251	250	251	250	249
Exchequer Bills ..	3pm	5pm	4pm	3pm	3pm	12pm
India Bonds ..	6	—	—	10	—	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Belgian ..	98	Mexican ..	21
Brazilian ..	86	Peruvian ..	39
Buenos Ayres ..	43	Portuguese 5 per cents ..	81
Columbian ..	16	Ditto converted ..	33
Danish ..	86	Russian ..	112
Dutch 2 1/2 per cents ..	56	Spanish Active ..	23
Ditto 4 per cents ..	90	Ditto Passive ..	4
Ditto 5 per cents ..	77	Ditto Deferred ..	17

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham & Gloucester ..	123	London & Croydon Trunk ..	21
Blackwall ..	84	London and Greenwich ..	—
Bristol and Exeter ..	76	Manchester and Leeds ..	—
Eastern Counties ..	21	Midland Counties ..	129
Eastern Union ..	53	Ditto New Shares ..	35
Edinburgh and Glasgow ..	—	Manchester and Birming ..	—
Great North of England ..	239	Midland and Derby ..	95
Great Western ..	124	Norfolk ..	130
Ditto Half ..	72	North British ..	35
Ditto Fifths ..	28	South Eastern and Dover ..	38
London & North-Western ..	185	South Western ..	66
Ditto Quarter Shares ..	21	York and Newcastle ..	36
London and Brighton ..	56	York and North Midland ..	86

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, Feb. 22.

The arrivals of English wheat at market this morning were large, and the condition being indifferent, sales to any extent could not be effected, though offered at 3s. to 4s. per quarter decline from this day's night. With a fair supply of barley, the trade is dull, and 2s. per quarter dearer. Although there are very few oats fresh up, either of British or foreign, still buyers act with much reserve, and sales can only be made to a limited extent by accepting 1s. per quarter less money. Beans and peas also are rather cheaper. The demand for floating cargoes of maize continue; uncertain rates were paid for anything forward to hand.

Wheat, Red ..	70 to 74	Peas, Hog ..	51 .. 53
New ..	73 .. 76	Maple ..	52 .. 54
White ..	73 .. 82	Boilers ..	54 .. 59
New ..	78 .. 83	Beans, Ticks ..	45 .. 49
Flour, per sack (Town) ..	60 .. 65	Pigeon ..	50 to 54
Barley ..	43 .. 46	Harrow ..	46 .. 47
Malt ..	53 .. 56	Oats, Feed ..	31 .. 36
Malt, Ordinary ..	60 to 71	Pine ..	37 .. 39
Pale ..	74 .. 77	Poland ..	— .. —
Rye ..	48 .. 58	Potato ..	37 .. 41

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR JAN. 30.

Wheat ..	71s. 7d.	Wheat ..	71s. 10d.
Barley ..	51 10	Barley ..	52 0
Oats ..	32 8	Oats ..	31 1
Rye ..	55 8	Rye ..	52 8
Beans ..	53 11	Beans ..	51 4
Peas ..	56 11	Peas ..	54 11

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Feb. 22.

The dead markets being heavily supplied with country-killed meat, and the weather by no means favourable to slaughtering, the beef trade was in a very sluggish state, at, in most instances, a decline on last week's quotations of 2d. per 8 lbs.; the highest figure for the best Scotch not exceeding 4s. 2d. per 8 lbs. The numbers of sheep were again very small, owing to which the salesmen demanded advanced rates for that description of stock. The trade must be considered firm, and a good clearance was effected. There were about 300 shorn sheep offering. With calves we were scantily supplied; yet the veal trade was heavy, at the late decline in value. Pigs were in moderate supply, and sluggish inquiry, at unaltered rates.

Price per stone of 8 lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef ..	2s. 10d. to 4s. 2d.	Veal ..	3s. 10d. to 5s. 0d.
Mutton ..	3 6 .. 5 0	Pork ..	3 8 .. 4 10

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

Friday ..	848	Sheep ..	1,870	Calves ..	114	Pigs ..	310
Monday ..	3,237	16,970	51	290			

NEWCASTLE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Feb. 22.

Inf. Beef 2s. 4d. to 2s. 6d.	Inf. Mutton 3s. 6d. to 3s. 8d.
Middling do 2 8 .. 2 10	Mid. ditto 3 10 .. 4 0
Prime large 3 0 .. 3 2	Prime ditto 4 2 .. 4 4
Prime small 3 4 .. 3 6	Veal 4 0 .. 4 10
Large Pork 3 6 .. 4 6	Small Pork 4 8 .. 4 10

SEEDS, LONDON, Monday.—The dense fog which prevailed during the morning interfered greatly with business in seeds. Clover, both red and white, war, however, held with much firmness, at previous prices. Canaryseed was in good supply, and the demand having suddenly fallen off, the article was almost unsaleable. Quotations of linseed, rapeseed, &c., remained much as before.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday.—No new feature has occurred in our markets since our last. For Irish butter there has been a steady demand, and a fair business done in the finer and lower qualities. Prices ruled for Carlow, 90s. to 98s.; Clonmel and Kilkenny, 92s. to 96s.; Carrick, 92s. to 94s.; Waterford, 80s. to 88s.; Cork, 92s. to 95s.; Limerick, 82s. to 90s. per cwt. Foreign was liberally dealt in, and prices advanced accordingly. The best closed at 110s. to 112s. per cwt. For singed bacon we have to notice a slightly increased demand, at prices varying from 63s. to 66s. per cwt. Bale and tierce middles found buyers at from 58s. to 62s. per cwt., according to quality and size. Hams sold slowly and limited at 60s. to 70s. per cwt. Lard dull at 71s. to 80s. bladders, and at 66s. to 70s. per cwt. for kegs. The market for cheese is, better, as prices asked by the holders are now freely given, in was not the case before. In American there is a considerable business doing, but at low prices. Foreign scarce and dear.

BREAD.—The prices of wheat bread in the metropolis are from 10d. to 10 1/2d.; of household ditto, 8 1/2d. to 9 1/2d. per 4 lbs loaf.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, Feb. 22.—Our market remains inactive, but holders are firm. We can notice no alteration in prices.

Weald of Kent pockets, 86s. to 96s.; Mid. and East Kents, 92s. to 130s.; Sussex, 78s. to 86s.

WOOL, CITY, Monday.—The imports of wool into London last week were only 339 bales: of which 281 were from Sydney, and the rest Belgium and New York. The public sales of wool commenced on Thursday, and have been in progress daily since. They will, probably, include about 12,000 bales; but the quantity is as yet uncertain, because more may arrive. They are proceeding much the same as the last; fully as well we believe, and with a fair attendance of buyers. Leeds, Feb. 19.—The demand for British wool this week has been limited; the spinners and manufacturers buy sparingly and cautiously. There is not any variation of moment in the prices quoted; but the sales which have been made have been at rather lower rates.

TALLOW, LONDON, Feb. 22.—On the whole, this market is firmer than for some time past, at an advance of quite 6d. per cwt. Fine F.Y.C., on the spot, has sold at 50s. 3d. to 50s. 6d. per cwt. For forward delivery we have few sales to report. Home make is improving in value.

HIDES, LEADENHALL.—Market hides, 61lb. to 79lb. 3d. to 3 1/2d. per lb.; ditto, 79lb. to 80lb. 3 1/2d. to 3 1/2d.; ditto, 80lb. to 88lb. 3 1/2d. to 4d.; ditto, 88lb. to 96lb. 4 1/2d. to 5d.; ditto, 96lb. to 104lb. 5 1/2d. to 6d.; Calf-skins, each, 4s. 6d. to 6s. 9d.; Horse hides, 13s.; Lambs, 2s. 4d. to 2s. 10d.; Shearings, 1s. 6d. to 2s.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Feb. 20.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Meadow ..	45s. to 75s.	Oat Straw ..	30s. .. 34s.
Clover Hay ..	65s. to 95s.	Wheat Straw ..	00s. .. 00s.

COAL EXCHANGE, Feb. 19.

Stewart's, 23s. 0d.; Hetton's, 23s. 3d.; Braddyll's Hetton's, 23s. 6d.; Lambton's, 23s. 0d.; West Hartley's, 16s. 6d. Ships arrived this week, 358.

GROCERIES, LONDON, Tuesday, Feb. 23.

TEA.—The deliveries are again large, amounting to 570,000 lbs. There is no alteration in prices.

COFFEE.—There were no public sales. Good ordinary native Ceylon are selling at 42s. to 42s. 6d. per cwt.

SUGAR.—The trade bought 100 hhds. and tierces in the British plantation market, prices are as high as on Friday last. There was more doing in refined goods; standard lumps fetched 65s. to 65s. 6d., and brown grocery 64s. to 64s. 6d. per cwt. 10,000 bags, 3,500 casks Mauritius, offered in auction, sold at a decline of 6d. per cwt.; low to good yellow, 47s. to 51s. 6d.; fine yellow, 52s. to 54s.; good to fine brown, 41s. to 47s.; low to fine grey, 47s. to 51s. per cwt.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM MOVEMENT.

THE DECIDED OPPONENTS OF STATE INTERFERENCE WITH EDUCATION, OF ALL DENOMINATIONS, are invited to meet Mr. EDWARD BAINES, jun., and other Gentlemen from various parts of the country, at the SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION ROOMS, 60, Paternoster-row, at Ten o'clock on FRIDAY Morning next (the 26th inst.), to confer on the best means of carrying out a vigorous and efficient opposition to the proposed measures of Government.

Just published,

THE DAYS OF LAUD, and of the COMMON-WEALTH. By Mrs. COURTNEY NEWTON. In one volume, with Engravings, price 4s. 6d. cloth.

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It has long been felt that some plan is required whereby charitable persons could materially assist their poor but deserving neighbours, otherwise than by giving them money. The system of pecuniary aid, often so obnoxious both to donor and recipient, can now be obviated, and lasting service effected by the much more desirable medium of encouragement to industry. The EAST INDIA TEA COMPANY propose, therefore, that Agencies for the sale of their Teas should be granted to the industrious, on receiving from persons of known respectability their guarantee that goods thus entrusted to the Agent shall be ultimately paid for.

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This elegant, fragrant, and transparent oil, in its preservative, restorative, and beautifying qualities for the human hair, is unequalled throughout the whole world. Price 3s. 6d., 7s. Family bottles (equal to four small), 10s. 6d., and double that size, 21s. per bottle.

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This is a preparation from the choicest Oriental Herbs, of peculiarly mild and detergent properties. It pleasantly and effectually cleanses the hair and skin of the head of scurf and every species of impurity, and imparts a delicate fragrance. It entirely supercedes the necessity for using the fine comb, so injurious to the tender skin of the head; and, from its beneficial effects on the health, together with the grateful and refreshing sensation it imparts, and being perfectly innocent in its nature, will prove an invaluable appendage to the toilet, and the purposes of the nursery.—3s. 6d. per bottle.

ROWLANDS' MELACOMIA;

IRISH EVANGELICAL SOCIETY. CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE RELIEF OF THE STARVING POOR IN IRELAND.

THE COMMITTEE acknowledge, with great thankfulness, the liberal contributions remitted to them to mitigate the appalling distress which still deepens and spreads in our ill-fated sister country. They have two deputations now visiting the distressed districts, one in the north and west, the other in the south. The statements transmitted by the Agents of the Society, from every part of the country, are of the most affecting description. There is little hope that the calamity will abate. Months must elapse before any supplies can be derived from the soil. It is therefore for British Christians to persevere in the course of benevolence they have so nobly commenced, if they would save alive those who are literally "ready to perish."

THOMAS JAMES, Secretary.

Blomfield-street, February 18, 1847.

	£	s.	d.
Amount already advertised	5,391	13	7
The Misses Welch, Downton	1	10	0
Rev. N. Hall and Friends, Hull (additional)	5	1	0
Rev. B. Fletcher and ditto, Topsham	3	6	4
Rev. D. Senior and ditto, Selby	4	0	0
Rev. D. Griffiths, Tean, near Cheadle	0	9	0
Rev. R. Robinson and Friends, Luton (additional, including Sunday-school, 18s. 6d.)	3	15	4
Rev. T. Islip and Friends, Stamford	16	2	9
Rev. J. V. Mummery, Ratcliffe (additional)	1	1	0
Independent Chapel, Margate, by Rev. C. F. Vardy, A.M.	11	0	0
Rev. G. Brown, Clapham	2	0	0
Rev. G. Rose, Bermondsey (additional)	2	17	6
Rev. J. Hall, Cheshunt	1	10	0
Rev. W. Woodhouse and Friends, Adelphi Chapel, part Sacramental Collection	20	0	0
Rev. J. Reeve and Friends, Upper Mill, near Manchester	6	5	4
Rev. J. Green and Friends, Uppingham	41	0	6
R. Derry, jun., Esq., St. Austell	10	10	0
Rev. W. Alliot and Friends, Howard Chapel, Bedford	11	12	9
Rev. J. Percy & Friends, Warwick £27 3 6			
Less Expenses	1	8	8
	25	14	10
L. L. R.	0	10	0
Rev. T. R. Moore and Friends, Soham	5	0	0
Rev. R. E. May and Family, Clevedon	2	15	0
A few Friends, by Mrs. Patching, Henfield	1	0	0
Rev. S. Eastman and Friends, Eversden	16	0	0
Rev. R. Roberts & Friends, Park-gate, Cheshire (part)	4	0	0
Denton, Rev. James Davies (additional, making £16 8s. 6d.)	2	2	0
Rev. Mr. Chance lor and Friends, Hayes	1	15	6
Rev. T. G. Stamper and Friends, Uxbridge	23	6	1
Mr. T. J. Pearson Workshop	2	0	0
Independent Chapel, Weymouth, by Mr. Devenish	15	0	0
Rev. J. Rowland and Friends, Henley	27	19	3
Rev. P. Thomson and Friends, Chatham	36	13	4
Walt Heath, Staffordshire, by Mrs. Ireland	1	16	0
Old Independent Chapel, Lewes, by Rev. P. Kent	9	0	4
Rev. R. Thomson & Friends, Ilfracombe, one-third of Collection	2	0	0
Rev. J. Green, Uppingham (additional)	4	0	0
Friends at Haslemere, by Rev. C. J. Morgan	3	7	0
Rev. W. Melden and Friends, Chichester	2	7	6
Rev. J. N. Goulty and Friends, Brighton, (part)	10	0	0
Rev. J. Jukes and Friends, Bedford	20	0	0
Sheffield:—			
Collections at Nether Chapel, Rev. T. Smith	25	6	2
Ditto at Queen-street Chapel, Rev. J. H. Moir, £137 7s. 8d., less £25 for Scotland	112	7	8
Ditto at Howard-street Chapel, after Sermons by Rev. T. Mui-caster, of Rotherham College, £34 16s. 5d., less £6 16s. for Scotland, and £2 0s. 5d. to purchase clothing for the Irish	30	0	0
George Wall, Esq.	20	0	0
Smith and Wightman	5	0	0
Mr. William Nicholson	5	0	0
Mr. Thomas Cates	5	0	0
Mr. George Dixon	5	0	0
Mr. S. Ellis	1	0	0
Messrs. Roberts and Slater	7	7	0
Mrs. Thomas	2	0	0
Mr. M. Bishop	1	0	0
Mr. B. Richards	1	0	0
Messrs. Gately and Wortley	3	0	0
Miss Edmunds	2	2	0
Mr. T. Newhall	0	5	0
Mr. Francis Cooper	1	0	0
Mr. William Barton	2	0	0
Messrs. E. and I. Greaves	2	0	0
Mr. T. Cockayne	1	0	0
Messrs. Blackwell and West	1	0	0
Messrs. Blackwell & West's workmen	1	7	6
Mr. William Jenkinson	2	0	0
Mr. J. Robinson	1	0	0
Mr. William Cooper	1	0	0
Mr. Thomas Fawcett	0	10	0
Mr. Abraham Walker	1	0	0
Mr. William Broadhurst	5	0	0
T. H. A.	0	10	0
A Friend, G. M.	5	0	0
A Friend, per G. M.	2	0	0
T. S. I.	0	10	0
Mr. James Sewell, sen.	0	10	0
Apprentices at Independent Office	1	5	0
Young Men at Messrs. Willey and Judd's	1	0	0
Mr. T. Frith	1	0	0
S. Newbould and Co.'s workmen	2	3	7
Mrs. Robinson	0	10	0

258 13 11

TO THE PROTESTANTS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

On March 1st will be published, price 1s.,

THE OXFORD PROTESTANT MAGAZINE,

No. 1.

Oxford: JOSEPH FLOWMAN. London: W. STRANGE, Paternoster-row.

The OXFORD MAGAZINE will discuss with freedom and boldness the social and political questions of the day, wholly irrespective of party distinctions. Its special object will be, to assert and vindicate sound Protestant principles, and to observe and expose the workings of a party within the Church and Universities, which is striving, with too much success, to make our great Public Schools, and the Established Church, instruments for the propagation of errors inconsistent with the existence of the Protestant Church, and destructive to Civil and Religious Freedom. Brief and faithful Notices of New Publications, and a summary of General Intelligence will be given. Orders, Communications, and Books for Review, may be sent either to the London or Oxford Publisher.

CONTENTS OF No. 1.

1. The Age we Live in.—Quacks in General.
2. University Reform.
3. Can and will the Universities Reform themselves.—Dean of Christ Church; Dr. Hampden; Dr. Buckland; Rev. B. Powell, Savil. Prof.; Rector of Exeter College; Principal of Brazenose; Vice-Principal of St. Mary Hall.
4. Hopes of Rome: Oxford Revelations.—Mr. Newman; Mr. Dalgairns; Mr. Faber; Father Dominick; Architectural Romanists.
5. Burial in Towns; Aerial Poisons.—Bishop of Oxford and Tractarian Clergy; Town Council and Citizens.
6. Chapters in the Life of an Undergraduate.—The Start from Home.
7. Ireland and the Irish.—Responsibilities of Rulers. Notices of Books, General Intelligence, &c., &c.

FAMINE IN IRELAND.

THE DEPUTATION from the CONGREGATIONAL UNION of IRELAND acknowledge, with deepest gratitude, the liberality of their English friends to the dying poor they have pleaded for.

In returning to Ireland to relieve the increasing distress, they leave the cause with confidence to the continued consideration of the benevolent.

They have been enabled already to remit relief; and, in concluding their labours as a deputation, respectfully request any future contributions may be directed to the Rev. Dr. Urwick, 3, Rathmines Mall, Dublin; Timothy Turner, Esq., Royal Bank, Dublin; or to the office of the *Patriot*, Bolt-court, Fleet-street.

	£	s.	d.
Sums previously acknowledged	1184	8	0½
Rev. M. M'Ray and Friends, Walthamstow, moiety	40	0	0
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Rev. J. Cheney, Broad Winsor	2	2	0
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Collections at Coggeshall, including £10 from Mr. Porter, of Bridge-hall	50	8	0
Collections at Surrey Chapel, after Sermons by Rev. A. King, including £5 from Rev. James Sherman	£145	11	10
Contributed after collections, by Anonymous, "English money, to lighten Irish distress,"	7	0	0
From Sunday-school teachers and scholars, including seventeen farthings from seventeen little children	3	0	0½

Total from Surrey Chapel 155 11 10½

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Rev. W. Hawkins and Friends, Towcester 14 0 0

Sums received by Rev. A. King:—

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Rev. Thomas Tyson, Grassington 0 14 0

Rev. Samuel Hillyard, Bedworth, Coventry 8 5 6

Rev. Andrew Reed, B.A., voted by the Norwich Committee 50 0 0

From the Congregational Church assembling at Mortimer-street, London, per *Nonconformist* 7 10 0

JEROME CLAPP, Treasurer.

* * The donation from Mr. Bacle should have been entered thus:—John Bacle, Esq., Wyken, per Rev. S. Barber, Bridgenorth.

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Mrs. Hurst, jun., ditto 50 0 0

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Exertions are still making in the vicinity, and it is calculated that £800 will be raised at home.

Mr. Daniell, therefore, appeals to his friends in London and elsewhere, to enable him to redeem his pledge to collect from £500 to £700, that besides the wide field to which he goes at Birmingham, and the Dumpton-hall Institution for the Education of the Sons of Ministers of all Sects, he may not long retain this additional solicitude.

If it were needful to amplify, it might furnish a fair stimulus to a prompt and generous response, to observe, that during a pastorate of rather less than ten years, two thousand pounds have been cheerfully contributed by the church and congregation to missionary and other societies, new chapels, and chapel debts, irrespective of £5,000 expended at home in their own place of worship and schools.

Contributions will be thankfully received by Rev. Mortlock Daniell, Dumpton-hall, Ramsgate; by Mr. Percival Daniell, at New Bond-street, or the Grove, Hackney; by Mr. W. W. Stanger, Mission-house; and at the offices of the *Patriot* and *Nonconformist*.

Since the insertion of the above, ten days back, the Rev. Mortlock Daniell has received the following contributions, for which he returns his sincere thanks; and he hopes that, through the prompt generosity of those who may be able, his pledge to collect £800 or £700 will shortly be redeemed:—

THE GOVERNMENT MEASURE OF EDUCATION.

A MEETING OF MINISTERS and GENTLEMEN from various parts of Yorkshire and Lancashire, convened by Circular, for the purpose of considering the GOVERNMENT PLAN OF EDUCATION, and held in the Committee-room of East Parade Chapel, Leeds, on Thursday, February 18th, 1847;

HENRY FORBES, Esq., in the Chair:

Prayer having been offered by the Rev. Thomas Stratten, of Hull, The Rev. John Ely read several letters from Gentlemen unable to attend.

The following Resolutions were then proposed and adopted:—

Moved by the Rev. Dr. Hamilton, Leeds;
Seconded by John Crossley, Esq., Halifax:—

1. That it appears from official documents, that during the last twenty-nine years there has been an exceedingly rapid extension of education in this country, both by Day-schools and Sunday-schools—promising ere long, with the continued efforts of Christians and philanthropists, and with the growing sense on the part of parents of the value of education for their children, to meet the requirements of the nation; that in the day-schools recently provided for the poor, it has been the object of nearly all parties to combine moral and religious with secular instruction; that the quality of education is also very rapidly improving; and that under a system of perfect freedom, with the active exertions of religious and benevolent men, there is every reason to expect the happiest results in the general education of the people.

Moved by the Rev. James Parsons, York;
Seconded by John Wilkinson, Esq., Gledhow Mount:—

2. That this meeting regards with the strongest disapprobation and alarm the measure of her Majesty's Ministers for bringing the education of the people under Government support and direction, contained in the Minutes of the Committee of Council on Education for December, 1846.

Moved by John William Smith, Esq., Sheffield;
Seconded by the Rev. J. D. Lorraine, Wakefield:—

3. That the Government plan will involve an unnecessary and prodigious expenditure of public money, and a dangerous extension of Government patronage.

Moved by R. Milligan, Esq., Acacia, Bradford;
Seconded by the Rev. J. L. Poore, Salford:—

4. That it appears likely, on a moderate estimate of the grants, gratuities, and pensions promised in the Minutes of the Committee of Council, that should the plan come into full operation, it will entail a burden on the country of from a million and a half to two millions sterling per annum.

Moved by the Rev. Thos. Stratten, Hull;
Seconded by William Standcliffe, Esq., Miffield:—

5. That it will give to the Government of the day a most objectionable and virtually despotic power over the schoolmasters throughout the country, by the means of grants, gratuities, and pensions, which may either be bestowed or withdrawn on the report of the inspectors—a power which may be used tyrannically towards individuals, and the effect of which must be to reduce the schoolmasters into a state of bondage, and thus to produce an influence on their teaching unfavourable to mental independence and the spirit of liberty among the rising race.

Moved by George Leeman, Esq., York;
Seconded by the Rev. Dr. Massie, Salford:—

6. That the entire dependence of the pupil-teachers and stipendiary monitors, and of the candidates for those offices, on the favourable report of the inspectors, for their success in life, will place a very great number of families, constituting no inconsiderable portion of the whole community, under the direct influence of the inspectors, and of the Government by which they are appointed.

Moved by the Rev. John Ely, Leeds;
Seconded by Samuel Hick, Esq., Leeds:—

7. That the amount of patronage thus added to the Government cannot be contemplated without serious concern for the interests of liberty.

Moved by the Rev. James Priddle, Halifax;
Seconded by Captain Irvine, Leeds:—

8. That the Government measure involves the erection of a new religious Establishment, in the form of schools closely allied with the present Church Establishment, in which the doctrines, principles, and formularies of the Church, are expressly required to be taught, and where all the religious examinations are to be carried on in the presence of the parochial clergy, whose attestation is rendered necessary to the bestowing of salaries or grants on the masters, pupil-teachers, and monitors; that although Government assistance will not be confined to Church schools, yet it will in practice be nearly so, as Dissenters will for the most part conscientiously decline to accept the grants: that thus a new injustice and a new burden will be imposed on Dissenters, who will be compelled to pay for the support of a religious teaching which they do not approve.

Moved by the Rev. Walter Scott, Principal of Airedale College;
Seconded by Matthew Hale, Esq., Dewsbury:—

9. That the influence of the proposed measures on the schools of Dissenters who decline the Government grants, must be extremely prejudicial; that it will obviously tend to draw from them both their schoolmasters and their scholars, by the lavish patronage offered to each in the schools inspected by the Government; and that thus the Dissenting communities, their congregations, their Sunday-schools, and the principles which they believe to be those of Scripture truth, will essentially suffer.

Moved by William Willans, Esq., Huddersfield;
Seconded by the Rev. James G. Miall, Bradford:—

10. That the Government plan, though constructed with the utmost art to gratify the pretensions of the Established Church without openly offending the Dissenters, displays gross partiality towards the Establishment: it recognizes and distinctly requires the teaching of religion in the Church schools, whilst it does not recognize the teaching of religion in any other schools: if it be assumed that religion will not be taught in other schools, the partiality towards the Establishment is evident; but if it be assumed that religion will be taught in the other schools, this is manifestly an introduction of the principle that Government may support the teaching of every form of religion—a principle which this meeting regards with abhorrence, as calculated to degrade religion into an instrument of state-policy, and its ministers into state-pensioners, while on the popular mind it is calculated to produce the impression that all religions are alike true or alike false.

Moved by Edward Baines, Esq., Leeds;
Seconded by the Rev. Ebenezer Morley, Hull:—

11. That the form in which this great, novel, and dangerous measure is brought forward, appears to this meeting inconsistent with the spirit and ordinary practice of the Constitution, inasmuch as it would seem, from the statement of the President of the Council, that it will not be made the subject of a Bill, and pass through several readings in both Houses of Parliament, but will merely be brought forward with the annual estimates in the House of Commons: That this attempt to carry so important a change in the educational system of the country without the ordinary securities for ample discussion both in and out of Parliament, adds to the alarm which the measure itself is calculated to inspire.

Moved by Edward Baines, jun., Esq., Leeds;
Seconded by Rev. Thomas Scales, Leeds:—

12. That the ministerial plan affords a new and striking illustration of the danger of Government stepping out of its legitimate province, to undertake the training of the national mind: that in the view of this meeting it is inconsistent with the principles of civil and religious liberty, that a Government should undertake the instruction of the people, either in general knowledge or in religion: that the present plan, whilst it professes only to aid education, necessarily involves inspection and control, and even prescribes with minuteness the system of education for all the pupil-teachers and stipendiary monitors; and that, acting on the same principles, Government may proceed to take the entire education of the country into its management, and to make it compulsory: that all experience proves the unfitness of Government to direct the education of the people: that whatever zeal or activity might be manifested in the outset, it can scarcely be doubted that a great Government system, once established, would become inert, the subject of abuse, a field for patronage and jobbing, and almost incapable of reform or improvement: and that, therefore, this meeting is fully convinced, that principle and true expediency alike condemn the interference of the Government in the education of the people.

Moved by the Rev. James Priddle;
Seconded by the Rev. J. G. Miall:—

13. That it be recommended to all Congregations, and to the

Managers and Teachers of Sunday-schools, to prepare and sign petitions against the proposed measures of the Committee of Council on Education, and to apply to their own representatives, whether of the borough or county, to present them to Parliament and support their prayer; and that it be also recommended to influential electors to address special and earnest letters to their representatives, urging them to resist the scheme of Government.

Moved by Mr. Horner, Wakefield;
Seconded by John Wilkinson, Esq.:—

14. That Mr. E. Baines's Letter to the Marquis of Lansdowne has presented the measure in so clear a light, and exposed its unconstitutional character and mischievous tendencies in so masterly a manner, as to render it desirable and expedient to give to this document the widest possible circulation; and this meeting rejoices that it has already been printed in a cheap and convenient form, well adapted for that purpose.

Moved by the Rev. William Hudswell;
Seconded by the Rev. J. G. Miall:—

15. That a deputation be appointed to wait upon her Majesty's Ministers, to represent the views and wishes of the great body of the Dissenters of this country, with whom the gentlemen now present stand connected; and that the following be such deputation: the Chairmen (H. Forbes, Esq., E. Baines, jun., Esq., George Leeman, Esq., John Crossley, Esq., William Willans, Esq., John William Smith, Esq., Rev. John Ely, and Rev. Thomas Scales; and that these gentlemen be also requested to attend the Meeting of the Congregational Board in London on Thursday next, Feb. 25th, as a deputation from this meeting.

Moved by the Rev. John Ely;
Seconded by William Standcliffe, Esq.;
Carried by acclamation:—

16. That the most cordial thanks of the meeting be presented to the Chairman for his able conduct in the chair.

THE GOVERNMENT SCHEME OF EDUCATION.

A MEETING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION, held at 4, Coleman-street buildings, Feb. 17, 1847.

SAMUEL MORLEY, Esq., in the Chair,

It was resolved unanimously:—

1. That in the opinion of this Board the Government scheme of education, as set forth in the Minutes of the Committee of Council dated December, 1846, demands the most energetic opposition of all the friends of free education; and that the Board deems the present occasion so important as to render it advisable to summon a special meeting of its constituency, with a view to consider what steps should be taken at the present juncture.

2. That such meeting be held on Thursday next, February 25, at the Congregational Library, Bloomfield-street, at Ten o'clock in the Forenoon.

By order of the Board,

ROBERT AINSLIE, Secretary.

4, Coleman-street-buildings, Moorgate-street,
February 17, 1847.

* * All persons who have contributed to the General Fund advertised by the Board of Education are eligible to attend the meeting.

TESTIMONIAL TO THE REV. ADAM THOMSON, D.D., COLDESTREAN.

A MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE late SCOTTISH BOARD FOR BIBLE CIRCULATION, held at EDINBURGH, 11th January, 1847;

H. D. DICKIE, Esq., having been called to the Chair;

It was resolved:—

That that this meeting highly approves of the object of the resolutions adopted by the meeting at Coldestream on the 8th ult., and cordially responds to the request to co-operate with the Committee appointed by that meeting in forwarding throughout Scotland the movement now being made in England, to raise Subscriptions for a Testimonial to the Rev. Dr. Thomson of Coldestream, for his unwearied and successful efforts to abolish the Monopoly of Printing the Bible in Scotland, and to secure the benefits of its abolition by the publication of accurate and cheap editions of the Holy Scriptures.

That the unprecedented reduction of the price of Bibles is mainly to be ascribed to the enterprise and energy of Dr. Thomson.

That the result of his labours is in the highest degree beneficial to the community at large, and to the cause of religion throughout this and other lands.

That to him, therefore, the cordial support and warmest gratitude of the Christian and the philanthropist are justly due.

That especially the Churches of Christ, Sabbath-school Associations, and Bible Societies, ought to extend, in the most hearty and effectual manner, their countenance and support to Dr. Thomson, who, almost entirely unaided, has laboured for years, amidst much opposition, and under many discouragements, and achieved results in the extension of the circulation of the Holy Scriptures exceeding the efforts even of Bible Societies, great as they have been.

That this assertion is fully substantiated by the fact that the School Bible, formerly sold at 4s., is now sold by the Coldestream Free Bible Press Company at 1s. 3d., and that the Pocket Bible, roan, embossed, and gilt edged, formerly sold at 5s., is now sold by that Company at 1s. (still lower when the Bibles are without the Scotch Psalms); and it has been affirmed, on the authority of her Majesty's Board for Superintending the Printing of Bibles in Scotland, that the difference of a single penny in the price of a Bible determines, year after year, whether the Word of God is or is not to enlighten and gladden thousands of families.

That even in a commercial point of view the subject is of great importance, illustrating as it does the advantages of Free Trade, which in no instance have yet been so successfully realized as in the unrestricted right to print and sell the Bible. On this ground, Dr. Thomson's efforts cannot fail to be appreciated by the political economist.

That in pursuance of the object referred to in the first Resolution, the following gentlemen be named a Committee, to correspond with other Committees having the same object in view, and to take such other means as may be deemed proper for obtaining Contributions towards the Testimonial:—

Sir J. Forrest of Comiston, Bart.
Rev. Dr. John Brown.
Rev. Dr. Caudlish.
Rev. Thomas Guthrie.
Rev. Dr. Peddie.
Rev. W. K. Tweedie.
Rev. George Johnston.
Rev. Andrew Arthur.
Rev. James Robertson.
Archibald Bonar, Esq., Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank.
Richard Whytock, Esq.

William McCrie, Esq.
William Beilby, Esq., M.D.
J. Dunlop, Esq., of Brockloch.
H. D. Dickie, Esq.
Andrew Grierson, Esq.
John Macandrew, Esq., S.S.C.
Rev. Alexander Jack, Dunbar.
Edward Cruickshanks, Esq.
Hugh Rose, Esq.
Andrew Grierson, W.S.
Robert Glass, Esq.
James Lawrie, Esq., Surgeon.

BANKERS.

Edinburgh—Archibald Bonar, Esq., Edinburgh and Glasgow Bank, George-street.
London—Union Bank, 2, Princes'-street, Bank.

THE ECLECTIC REVIEW FOR MARCH,

price 2s. 6d., contains—

1. South. His Biography and Writings.
2. Mary Howitt's Ballads.
3. Railways; their Consolidation and Government.
4. Tschudi's Travels in Peru.
5. Irish Protestantism.
6. Stephen's Memoirs of Christmas Evans.
7. National Education; the Ministerial Plan.
8. The Whole Truth on the Spanish Marriages, &c., &c.

WARD and Co., 27, Paternoster-row.

THE HERALD OF PEACE FOR MARCH.

CONTENTS.

- Religious Soldiers and Religious Wars. No. II.
Why won't you Enlist for a Soldier?
The Cost of War.
The Sataic Pyramid.
Elihu Burritt's Ocean Penny Postage.
Lecture at Paris by J. S. Buckingham, Esq.
Mr. Rigaud's Proceedings at Paris.
The Sikh Prisoners; the Artizans in the Dockyards;
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Price 3d.; Stamped, 3d.

London: WARD and Co., Paternoster-row; and Peace Society, 19, New Broad-street.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE.

The Constitution of the Association having provided that a Conference should be convened once in three years, at least, of parties friendly to organized effort for promoting the separation of the Church from the State, the Executive Committee announce that the FIRST TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE will commence its sittings at the LONDON TAVERN, Bishopsgate-street, London, on TUESDAY, the 4th of MAY next, at Ten o'clock, A.M.

The following persons will be entitled to be present and take part in the proceedings:—

1. Members of the Association.
 2. Any two delegates appointed by a meeting, congregational or otherwise, publicly convened, which shall have adopted the fundamental principle of the Society.
 3. Any two delegates nominated in writing by one hundred persons, in any city, borough, parish, or township, or in more than one of these united, such parties expressly concurring in the fundamental principle of the Society.
- It is requested that the election of all delegates may be communicated to the Secretaries on or before the 15th day of March next, and that each delegate may be furnished by his constituents with the means of defraying a fair proportion of the expenses incurred by holding the Conference.

The following are the terms of the fundamental principle referred to:—

"That in matters of religion man is responsible to God alone; that all legislation by secular governments in affairs of religion is an encroachment upon the rights of man, and an invasion of the prerogatives of God; and that the application by law of the resources of the State to the maintenance of any form or forms of religious worship and instruction, is contrary to reason, hostile to human liberty, and directly opposed to the word of God."

By order of the Executive Committee,

F. A. COX,
E. MIALL,
J. M. HARE, } Secretaries.

Offices and Book Depot, 12, Warwick-square,
Paternoster-row, London; Feb. 11, 1847.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

WINTER COURSE OF LECTURES.

THE SECOND LECTURE will be delivered at TOTTENHAM-COURT-ROAD CHAPEL, on THURSDAY Evening, February 25th, by the Rev. F. A. COX, D.D., LL.D. Subject: "The Antagonism of Establishments of Religion to Scriptural Christianity." Chair to be taken at Seven o'clock.

Offices, 12, Warwick-square, Paternoster-row.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

WINTER COURSE OF LECTURES.

THE NEXT LECTURE will be delivered at the TABERNACLE, MOORFIELDS (Rev. Dr. Campbell's), on WEDNESDAY EVENING next, March 3rd, by the Rev. JOHN BURNET, B.Sc.:—Church Property National Property. Chair to be taken at SEVEN o'clock.

* * The Publications of the Association may be had, and Members enrolled, at the close of the Lecture.

Offices of the Association, 12, Warwick-square, Paternoster-row.

LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—MISSIONS TO CHINA.

THE DIRECTORS have much pleasure in inviting their friends to attend a VALEDICTORY SERVICE, which will be held at SURREY CHAPEL, on TUESDAY Evening, March 2nd, on occasion of the departure to China of the Rev. W. Muirhead, Rev. B. Southwell, and Mrs. Southwell, and Mr. and Mrs. Wylie, appointed to Shanghai; also, of Dr. J. Hobson and Mrs. Hobson (daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Morrison, of China), and Mr. Hirschberg (a converted Israelite), appointed to Hong-kong.

The Rev. Dr. LEGGE, of China, will deliver the Introductory address; and the Rev. Dr. LEIFCHILD the Valedictory address. Service to commence at half-past Six.

WINCHMORE HILL, MIDDLESEX.—

DETACHED COTTAGE TO LET. It contains Two Sitting-rooms, Five Chambers, Water-closet, light Kitchen, Cellars, and Pantry, good supply of soft and spring Water, Wash-house, Coal-room, Two-stall Stable, and Chaise-house, and good Garden. To a Dissenting family in want of a residence in a healthy situation, the above presents a favourable opportunity, as the Cottage is near the new Independent Chapel and an acceptable ministry. Further particulars of Mr. Sell, Winchmore-hill.

WHITTINGTON CLUB and METROPOLITAN

ATHENÆUM.—The Committee are happy to inform the Members that they have taken Premises at No. 7, Gresham-street, which are being adapted for the purposes of the Club with the utmost rapidity.

WHITTINGTON CLUB and METROPOLITAN

ATHENÆUM.—The Entrance Fees for all Members of this Institution proposed on and after the 1st March, 1847, will be increased to One Guinea for Town and Half-a-Guinea for Country Members.

All persons who have been nominated as Members, and have not paid their Entrance Fees, are requested to do so immediately. Offices, 68, Cheapside.

THE NEW ASYLUM FOR INFANT ORPHANS, STAMFORD-HILL.

THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY DINNER of this CHARITY will be held at the LONDON TAVERN, on THURSDAY, the 6th of MAY next.

The Right Hon. Lord ROBERT GROSVENOR, M.P., will preside on the occasion.

W. H. L. STRUDWICKE, Sub-Sec.
Office, 32, Poultry.

Just published, revised from the "Patriot," demy 8vo, 32 pp., 1s.

THE CASE OF TAHITI; an APPEAL to the Constituents of the London Missionary Society, in Reply to "The Statement of the Directors," published January 11, 1847. By ANDREW REED, D.D.

The Publishers have received instructions to supply copies to Ministers of Religion free of charge, on application to them, enclosing four penny stamps for postage.

WARD and Co., 27, Paternoster-row.

This day is published, price One Shilling,

AN ANALYSIS and EXPOSURE of the NEW GOVERNMENT SCHEME of EDUCATION, showing its Precise Nature, its Objectionable Character, and its Mischievous Tendencies. By JOHN MIDDLETON HARE, Author of "The Analytical Digest of Sir James Graham's Factories Education Bill." London: JOHN SNOW, Paternoster-row; and all other Book-sellers.

LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

In a few days will be published,

A REPLY to the ANIMADVERSIONS of the Rev. Dr. REED on the Directors of the London Missionary Society, contained in his Appeal to its Constituency. JOHN SNOW, Paternoster-row.

Printed by JOHN HASLER, of No. 3, York-place, Albion-road, Stoke Newington, in the county of Middlesex, at No. 4, Crane-court, Fleet-street, in the parish of St. Dunstan in the West, in the city of London; and published by EDWARD MIALL, of No. 1, Belgrave-place, Tufnell-park, Holloway, in the county of Middlesex, at the office, No. 3, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, in the parish of St. Dunstan in the West, in the city of London.—WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1847.